SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025 SERVING DOWAGIAC, SISTER LAKES AND CASSOPOLIS

Dowagiac Daily News

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Sheriff, Chuck Heit

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Annual Rod & Roll car show returns to Dowagiac Aug. 16

FILE | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Classic cars of all makes and models will once again roll into downtown Dowagiac next week.

The Greater Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce will host the 34th annual Dowagiac Rod & Roll Classic Auto Show Saturday, Aug. 16.

The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and feature about 250 registered show cars, music, awards and camaraderie. Day of show registration for cars is $25, cash only, and swag bags are gifted to the first 250 to register. The gate for show cars to enter will open at 8 a.m. and can be accessed from Depot Drive. There is no charge for the public to view the cars.

"This event continues to be a local favorite, built on classics, chrome and community," stated event co-chair Kris Soenen. "The sounds of revving engines, and Motown and rock and roll music are the soundtrack for the day and the sense of community among car people that is obvious as you stroll the street."

Fifteen trophies, fabricated by Don Pye of Innovative Fab, will be awarded in several different categories and presented during the Trophy Ride at 2 p.m.

This year's Scavenger Hunt will be open to the public as well as registered car owners. Gamers can pick up a game sheet at the registration tent, seek out items hidden in select downtown business windows, and turn in their game sheet to be entered to win a Dowagiac Universal Gift Certificate redeemable at any Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce member business.

Many dining choices are available throughout the day including downtown restaurants with some offering car show specials. Short n Sweet Concessions will be on the street early selling sweet treats as well as a breakfast

See SHOW, Page A8

Dowagiac accepting city treasurer applications

COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — The City of Dowagiac is accepting applications to fill the city treasurer office.

Mayor Don Lyons has announced that the City Council is seeking applications from any resident interested in being appointed to fill the unexpired term, which will run through the next election on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

Dowagiac's City Treasurer, Latoi Wilson, recently resigned after nearly eight years of service as an elected official. Prior to becoming the elected treasurer, Wilson served the city in a variety of customer service and building services support roles from 2011 to 2017.

Per the Dowagiac City Charter, in order to be eligible for the appointment, applicants must be a registered elector in the City and a City resident for at least one year.

Details of the position and applications are available online on the City website. Applications are also available for pickup at the Customer Service office at Dowagiac City Hall, 241 S. Front Street, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All applications are due to the Assistant City Manager's office no later than 4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. Applications can be dropped off or emailed to Assistant City Manager Amanda Sleigh at ACM@dowagiac.org.

Questions about the duties and responsibilities of this position can be directed to Sleigh, Mayor Lyons, or any of the elected City Council members.

Mercedes Schirripa

Schirripa earns recognition for leadership

COMMUNITY REPORT

CASS COUNTY — Cass County Medical Care Facility Administrator Mercedes Schirripa has been recognized as an outstanding leader in Moody on the Market's 40 Under 40 recognition.

The designation, given to 40 young leaders from throughout southwest Michigan each year, recognizes individuals who have achieved significant success in their respective fields before the age of 40. The award committee takes into consideration each nominee's leadership, innovation, and contributions to each recipient's industry and community.

Schirripa was appointed as administrator at Cass County Medical Care Facility in 2024

See EARNS, Page A6

EXPLORING LOCAL HISTORY

Fort St. Joseph hosts annual Archaeology Open House

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — A local archaeological project invited the community to explore and learn how the "City of Four Flags" came to be.

The Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Open House was hosted last weekend at the site of Fort St. Joseph, an 18th-century trading post, mission, and garrison located on the St. Joseph River in Niles. The project is a collaboration between Western Michigan University Archaeological Field School and the City of Niles, with support from the greater community.

From its founding in 1691 until its abandonment in 1781, the Fort was controlled by three European countries: France, Britain, Spain, and was also occupied by several Native American groups, including the Potawatomi. That distinction is why Niles is known as the "City of Four Flags."

For more than twenty-five years, WMU archaeology staff and students have worked to reveal the history of Niles' Fort St. Joseph. More than 500 visitors came out to see the site.

"With our research, specifically, we're still looking at the extent of the site," said Director

See HISTORY, Page A8

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

OBITUARIES

Stacey Lee Truax
Shawn Strawderman
Floyd "Alex" Eskridge
Donald Lynn Harris
Grace Geneva Ritter
Paul Burns
Rex Lee Carpenter
Victor Robert Grathwohl
Larry Neal Johnson
Kathryn Jurgenson
Beverly Britton

A6

FRANKLY
TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

"Don't give the King bad news or it's off with your head."

A2

Niles football broadcasting duo ready for 2025 season

B1

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call or text Frankly at 219-455-2349 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

A plan for a $63 billion semi-conductor factory near Flint that could have created 10,000 jobs has just been scrapped due to "economic turmoil. "How's that for winning!

Was the free jet given to the US government or the Trump library? If the US owns it and puts 1 billion of work into it, why should it then move to the Trump library? If it is owned by the Trump library, let that secular entity pay to rehab it.

Gerrymandering is a dangerous game to be playing with the voters and a Constitutional Republic. What we are seeing in Texas is a power grab being forced on the people. There should be outrage.

Our national debt has skyrocketed out of control! In 10 years when the 2.5 trillion is realized from the latest big beautiful bill, will the GOP players still be around to explain why it happened.

Don't give the King bad news or it's off with your head.

Liberals have been kicking the illegal immigration can down the road for years taking no ownership of the problem. They always seem to leave the dirty work up to someone else.

How many trips did Clinton make to the island?

I long for the day that summers without road construction will be a reality. Drivers need to slow down, stop being impatient and for heaven's sake, watchout for our men and women performing road construction duties.

Food is expensive? So are cigarettes, pot and big honkin' trucks that suck lots of gas. Stop your griping and reduce your intake. We all need to give up something, so why not cut out the luxury vices?

Be nice because you just don't know what the other person is having to deal with. People carry a lot of terrible baggage around and if you only knew.

Dowagiac area residents are fortunate to have Beacon Borgess-Lee Hospital serving our area...as well as emergency medical transport. The timely, competent help of all personnel saves lives. May we never lose their vital services!

WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	40% Chance of Storms	50% Chance of Storms	Partly Cloudy	30% Chance of Rain
91° 72°	91° 69°	86° 67°	85° 68°	83° 68°	88° 67°

SMSO ANNOUNCES 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

COMMUNITY REPORT

BENTON HARBOR — This spring the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra announced the organization would celebrate its 75th anniversary in the 2025-2026 season. To honor the occasion and continue to fundraise toward a sustainable symphony, the SMSO will host a Regency Ball on Saturday, Oct. 11.

The ball will be held at the Aria at The Whitcomb in downtown St. Joseph and will begin with cocktail hour at 5 p.m. for VIPs, followed by general admission at 6 p.m. Guests are encouraged to come in costume, information about the time period and sources for attire can be found on the event's website, smso.org, along with VIPs, debutantes, and general admission tickets.

The SMSO is pulling inspiration from "Bridgerton" for its 75th Diamond Anniversary and fundraising gala theme.

Bridgerton is Shondaland's first scripted show for Netflix. It follows the close-knit siblings of the noble and influential Bridgerton family as they navigate the highly competitive social season; where young marriageable nobility and gentry are introduced into society. It is an alternative London Regency era history in which King George III established racial equality and granted many people of African descent aristocratic titles in honor of the African heritage of his wife, Queen Charlotte. The also show incorporates classical style reinterpretations of today's popular pop songs.

The SMSO has partnered with local legend and Benton Harbor Commissioner, Mamie Yarbrough to be the evening's queen, joyfully embodying both the show's alternative history and the symphony's mission of transforming all lives through music.

Guests are in for a magical evening of signature cocktails in the adjacent garden, a silhouettist creating portraits, and it wouldn't be an evening in the "TON" without a mysterious gossip columnist publishing an issue or two during the affair. With a nod to the theme, the SMSO's Queen will select a "diamond" (or favored debutante) of the season from a small group of VIP guests, who will then open the dancing for the evening following a live auction.

Last fall, the SMSO issued a call seeking immediate financial assistance from the community to "Save the Symphony" through a $150,000 match challenge. Thanks to the community's generous support, the campaign successfully exceeded the necessary funds to prepare for the upcoming 75th season.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

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facebook.com/CassCOA

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Cassopolis, MI 49031

Front Street Crossing
227 S. Front Street
Dowagiac, MI 49047

Dowagiac man arrested for Stevensville home invasion, assault

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

STEVENSVILLE — A 33-year-old Dowagiac man was arrested Saturday, Aug. 2 on charges of felony home invasion and felony assault following an early morning incident in the Village of Stevensville, according to the Lincoln Township Police Department.

At approximately 1:34 a.m. Aug. 2, Lincoln Township Police were dispatched to a reported home invasion in progress in the 5600 block of Karen Court in the Village of Stevensville. Upon arrival in the area, officers heard screaming coming from a nearby wooded area. Officers located the suspect in the woods while additional responding units made contact with the victims at a residence.

"The victim was transported to Spectrum Health Lakeland for treatment of injuries sustained during the assault."

The preliminary investigation indicates that the suspect, who was not known to the victim, forced entry into the home while the victim and her young children were sleeping. After being confronted, the suspect assaulted the victim. A second male, who had reportedly been with the suspect earlier in the evening, then entered the home and pulled the suspect out of the home at which time the suspect fled the scene on foot. The victim and her children fled to a neighbor's residence and called 911.

The victim was transported to Spectrum Health Lakeland for treatment of injuries sustained during the assault. The children were not physically harmed. The suspect was also treated for injuries received during the incident.

The suspect was lodged in the Berrien County Jail on three felony charges. The case remains under investigation.

The Lincoln Township Police Department was assisted at the scene by Berrien County Sheriff's Office Deputies, St. Joseph Township officers and Medic 1 Ambulance Service.

Indiana teen injured in Volinia Township crash

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

VOLINIA TOWNSHIP — An Indiana teen was hospitalized following a two-vehicle crash Saturday in Volinia Township, according to the Cass County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Clint Roach reports that at approximately 2:15 p.m., deputies responded to a crash at the intersection of Marcellus Highway and Lawrence Road in Volinia Township in Cass County.

The investigation showed that a vehicle driven by 18-year-old Kaden Smith was traveling northbound on Lawrence Road and failed to stop at the stop sign and continued north into the intersection. A vehicle driven by 35-year-old Johnnie Kirby, of Decatur, was traveling eastbound on Marcellus highway and struck the vehicle driven by Smith, who was transported by ambulance to South Bend Memorial Hospital for injuries sustained from the crash.

Alcohol is not believed to be a factor in the crash. Seat belts were worn.

Assisting agencies were Wayne Township Fire, Michigan State Police and SMCAS Ambulance.

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BEACON HEALTH SYSTEM

2025 Berrien County Youth Fair
August 11-16
Grandstand Entertainment
Fiesta at the Fair
Berrien County Youth Fair
August 11 - 16, 2025
August 10th Street Legal Pickup Truck and Tractor Pull 5 p.m.
Grandstand Tickets: $15
Presented by Dale Seyfred Pioneer Seed & Twin Maple Farm Market-Galien
Monday, August 11th
Sponsored by:
Corewell Health
NTPA Regional Truck & Tractor Pull
featuring 4WD Trucks, Super Farm, Hot Farm & Limited Superstock Tractors
Show Time: 7 p.m.
Ticket Price: $17, $15, $10
Reserved or General Admission Seating
Presented by:
Keystone Cooperative
Tuesday, August 12th
Sponsored by:
Honor Credit Union
TUESDAY IS KIDS DAY
All children through high school get in the gates FREE!
CIRCUS CONTINENTAL
Show Times: 1 p.m., 4 p.m., and 7 p.m.
Free Admission!
Wednesday, August 13th
Sponsored by:
VITERRA
COOPER ALAN
Show Time: 7 p.m.
Ticket Prices: $45, $35, $25
Reserved Seating
Presented by:
United Federal Credit Union
Thursday, August 14th
Sponsored by:
Indiana Michigan Power Cook Plant
From the Vault: The Riflemen singing a setlist of hits from various artists that have performed at the Berrien County Youth Fair over the years
The Riflemen
Show Time: 7 p.m.
Ticket Price: $5 Chair Seating
Free Grandstand Bleacher Seating!
Friday, August 15th
Sponsored by:
Keystone Cooperative
DEMOLITION DERBY
Show Time: 8 p.m.
Tickets: $15, Reserved Seating
Produced by: TNT Demolition Derby Michigan
Presented by:
Adams & Son Inc.
Heating, Cooling & Fireplaces
Call 269-473-1500 or go to www.bcyf.org for Grandstand Tickets and more info!
Saturday, August 16th
Sponsored by:
GreenStone Farm Credit Services
BULL MANIA
Show Time: 7 p.m.
Tickets: $15 Reserved Seating
Produced by: Super Kicker Rodeo Production
Presented by:
Rural King
America's Farm & Home Store
YOUTH FAIR GATE ADMISSION
Adults, Day Pass: $8
Children (5-12), Day Pass: $5
65 & Over, Day Pass: $5
Military Day Pass: $5
Adult Season Pass: $23
Child Season Pass: $12
65 & Over Season Pass: $14
Military Season Pass: $14
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Fair Office: 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. (Mon.-Sat.)
Food Vendors: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. (Mon.-Sat.)
A few are open for breakfast
Commercial Exhibits:
11 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.(Monday-Friday)
11 a.m. to 11 p.m.(Saturday)
Trophy Room:
8 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Monday-Saturday)
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Sunday, Aug. 17)
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22 Notre Dame students selected for 2025-26 Fulbright U.S. Student Program

Courtesy of Notre Dame

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Twenty-two University of Notre Dame students have been named finalists for the 2025-26 Fulbright U.S. Student Program, with another seven singled out as alternates for the award. The finalists include 18 undergraduate students and four graduate students.

Established in 1946, the Fulbright U.S. Student Program offers students and young professionals from all backgrounds the opportunity to study or teach abroad with support from the U.S. government.

In applying for the award, undergraduate students work closely with the Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement (CUSE) and graduate students with the Graduate School's Office of Grants and Fellowships.

"Given the headwinds of this year's Fulbright cycle, including funding uncertainty and later final notifications, Mathilda Nassar, Emily Buika Hunt and I are incredibly proud of our students for their grit and ultimate success," said Elise Rudt-Moorthy, associate director of national fellowships at CUSE. "It was an honor working with everyone throughout the summer and fall, and we would like to thank all the faculty and alumni who helped with advising."

Michael Skalski, associate program director in the Office of Grants and Fellowships, said, "We are very proud of and congratulate all our Fulbrighters this year. Our fellows worked hard and diligently on their applications, so we have the utmost confidence that they will represent Notre Dame and the U.S. in the best way possible in their host countries."

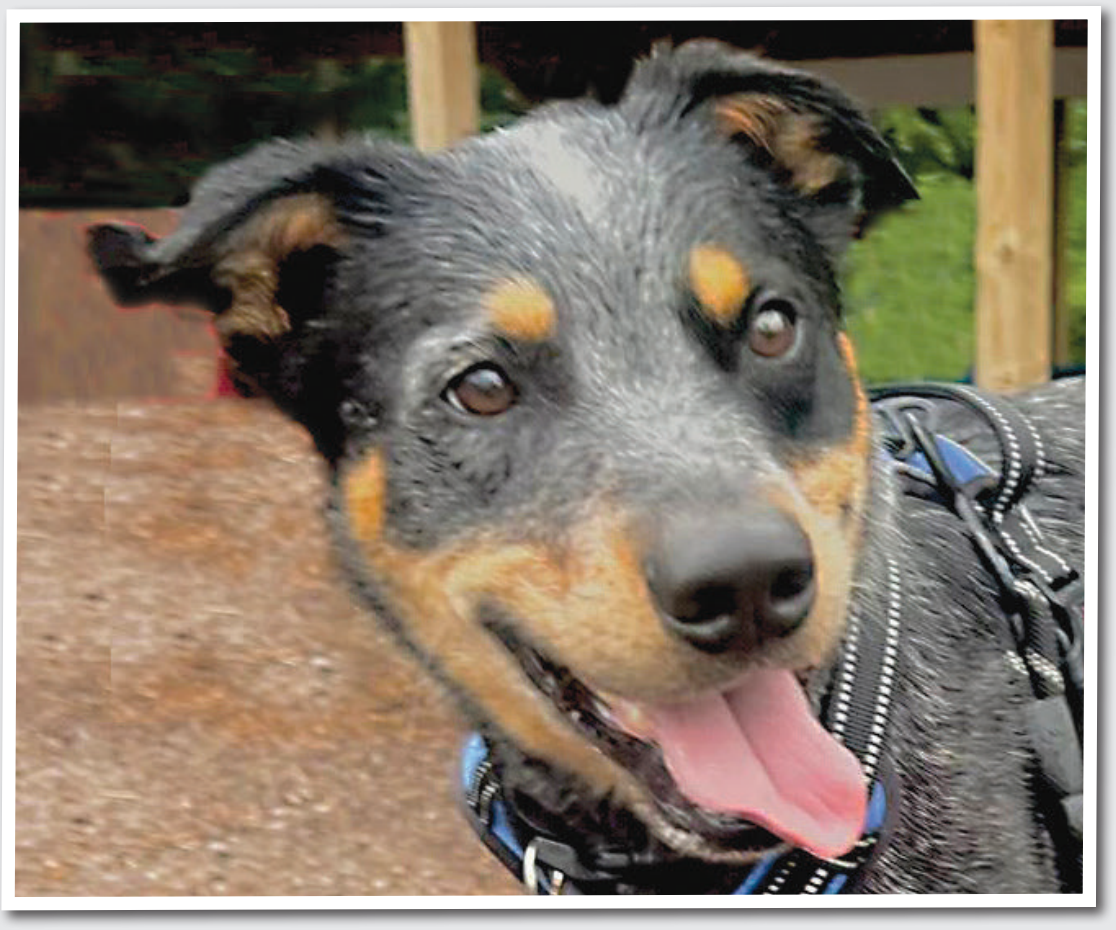
THE FINALISTS ARE:
Undergraduate

- Aria Bossone, American studies and peace studies (supplemental), English teaching assistantship to Spain
- Charlotte Cardarella, honors anthropology and Arabic, English teaching assistantship to Spain
- Mary Kate Cashman, political science and peace studies (supplemental), English teaching assistantship to Kosovo
- Eva Garces-Foley, anthropology, peace studies (supplemental) and Spanish (supplemental), English teaching assistantship to Spain
- Juliet Hare, political science, global affairs (supplemental with a concentration in international peace studies) and French (supplemental), English teaching assistantship to Luxembourg
- Ethan Harned, psychology and pre-health studies (supplemental), Fulbright-Nehru open study/research award to India
- Sarah Hui, program of liberal studies and theology, open study/research award to Italy
- Joseph Kositzke, American studies, English teaching assistantship to Spain
- Joseph Lufti, American studies and Arabic, English teaching assistantship to Georgia
- Leslie Martin, global affairs and Latino studies (supplemental), English teaching assistantship to Colombia
- Matthew McCollum, honors international economics, English teaching assistantship to Germany
- Maria Murinova, program of liberal studies, English teaching assistantship to the Slovak Republic
- Margaret O'Brien, political science and Italian (supplemental with a concentration in Irish studies), English teaching assistantship to Italy
- Jasmine Peña Ramirez, political science and Latino studies (supplemental), English teaching assistantship to South Korea
- Theresa Salazar, pre-professional studies and theology (supplemental), English teaching assistantship to Spain
- Alexandra Sutton, political science, English teaching assistantship to Lithuania
- Sarah Van Hollebeke, political science and German, English teaching assistantship to Germany
- Juliet Webb, anthropology and peace studies (supplemental), English teaching assistantship to Senegal

Graduate

- Christopher Cirelli, master of education (Alliance for Catholic Education) English teaching assistantship to Italy
- Montana Garcia, master of education (Alliance for Catholic Education), English teaching assistantship to Malta
- Nicholas Herrud, history, open study/research award to Lithuania
- Natasha Rodgers, French and Francophone studies, English teaching assistantship to Mauritius

PET OF THE WEEK



Shorty is described by volunteers as a wonderfully smart and high-energy dog. He will herd – a trait of his breed heritage – and is goofy and loving. Ready for an active person or family's lifestyle, Shorty is truly a person's best friend. Contact Lucky Dog Ranch at mike@luckydogranchswm.com.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Glendora Bookshop to host author Meagan Francis

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BUCHANAN — A local bookstore will be featuring an author who is no stranger to the community.

Glendora Bookshop, 110 E Front St., will welcome author and Buchanan native Meagan Francis for a book-signing event for her book titled "The Last Parenting Book You'll Ever Read: How to Let Your Kids Go and Embrace What's Next" at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16.

Francis has been writing since 2002 for outlets such as Good Housekeeping, Parents, Midwest Living, The Washington Post, NBCNews.com, NYTimes.com and more. Her latest work focuses on the transitional period between the "arms full" and "hands free" stages of parenting. In her podcast "The Kettle" and her Substack newsletter by the same name, Francis discusses "how to bring wisdom and wellbeing into our manic modern world."

Francis' book is available in-store and on Bookshop.org.

OK 2 SAY
Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.

OK2SAY Reports Record-Breaking Tip Volume

COMMUNITY REPORT

LANSING — OK2SAY, Michigan's confidential student safety tipline, reported a 20% surge in tip volume compared to the previous year, according to the program's 2024 Annual Report. With an unprecedented 11,671 tips received, the program has reached its highest reporting level since its inception in 2014, underscoring the vital role it plays in safeguarding Michigan's youth.

"The Michigan State Police is proud to champion OK2SAY, a program that transforms students into active partners in their own safety," added Col. James F. Grady II, director of the Michigan State Police (MSP). "That's the power of OK2SAY. This isn't just about reporting concerns; it's about fostering a culture of courage. Every tip, every act of speaking up, is a testament to a student's commitment to their community. It's a student saying, 'I care, and I want to make a difference.' This courage is the very foundation of safer schools and stronger communities."

The 2024 OK2SAY Annual Report shows the program received 11,671 tips spanning 25 categories, with the top five types of tips being:

- Bullying – 2,005 tips
- Suicide – 1,608 tips
- Other (e.g., anxiety, stress. depression, harassment) – 1,376 tips
- Drugs – 1,301 tips
- Sexual assault/misconduct /exploitation – 1,059 tips

Other findings include 25 tips involving the confiscation of

See TIP, Page A7

Dowagiac Daily News

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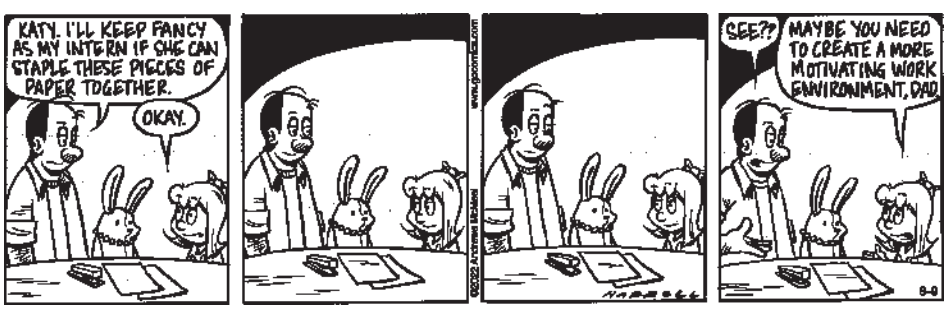
COMICS & PUZZLES

ADAM


KATY. I'LL KEEP FANCY AS MY INTERN IF SHE CAN STAPLE THESE PIECES OF PAPER TOGETHER.
OKAY.
SEE??
MAYBE YOU NEED TO CREATE A MORE MOTIVATING WORK ENVIRONMENT, DAD.

ALLEY OOP

I'M GLAD I CONVINCED YOU DINO DUDES TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH HUMANITY.
IT DIDN'T TAKE MUCH CONVINCING.
AND THIS DELICIOUS BREAD DIDN'T HURT!
WE SHOULD MAKE OUR FAVORITE DISH FOR THE HUMANS: MEGALODON CUPCAKES!
I'M SORRY, BUT EVERYONE KNOWS THAT MEGALODONS ARE ONLY GOOD IN COOKIES.

ARLO & JANIS

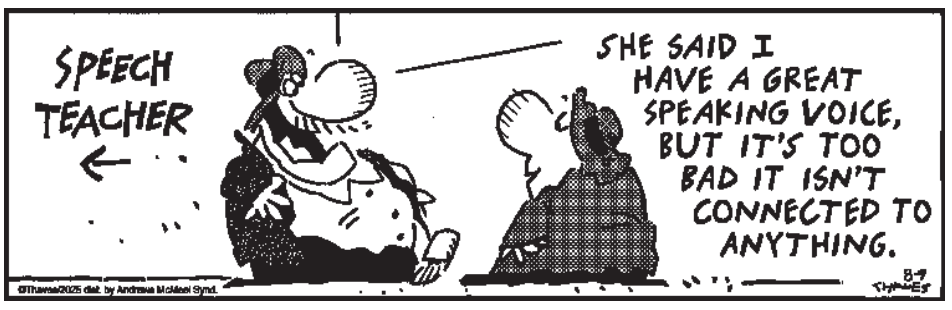
BIG NATE

RRINNG!!
AH! THAT'LL BE JIM!
WHO'S JIM?
MY NEIGHBOR! HE CALLS ME EVERY DAY AND WE COMPARE NOTES.
ABOUT WHAT?
ABOUT THE JUMBLE, OF COURSE! THAT'S WHY HE'S CALLED JUMBLE JIM!
HELLO?
"JUMBLE JIM"?
OH, YOU DID NOT SOLVE IT IN THREE MINUTES, YOU LYING DOG!

BORN LOSER

IT'S BOILING HOT, ISN'T IT?
ABSOLUTELY SCORCHING!
YOU KNOW THAT CANDY THAT'S SUPPOSED TO MELT IN YOUR MOUTH, NOT YOUR HAND?
SURE!
WELL, I'VE GOT SOME, AND IT DIDN'T MELT IN MY MOUTH OR MY HAND, IT MELTED IN MY POCKET!

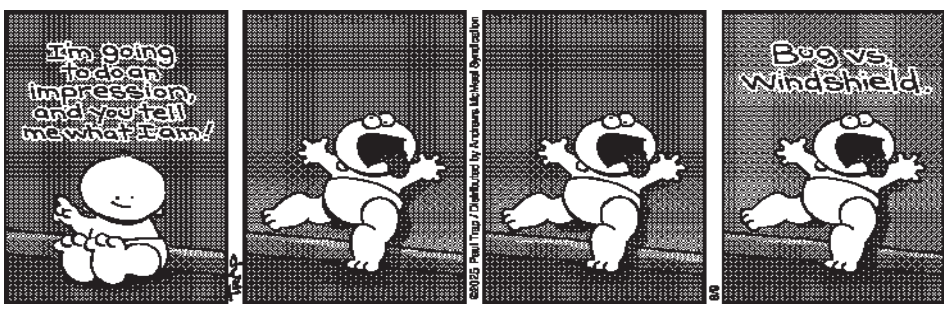
FRANK & ERNEST



GRIZZWELLS

HEY, POPS, AT YOUR AGE, HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WRITING YOUR MEMOIRS?
NO WAY... I TRIED LIVING IN THE PAST...
I COULD ONLY GET THREE TV CHANNELS

THATABABY



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SODOKU PUZZLE

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

	4			5	3			
					7			5
7	1		8					9
	5	1				7		
4				3				2
		3				9	4	
5					1		8	7
1			5					
			6	8			2	

MODERATELY CONFUSED

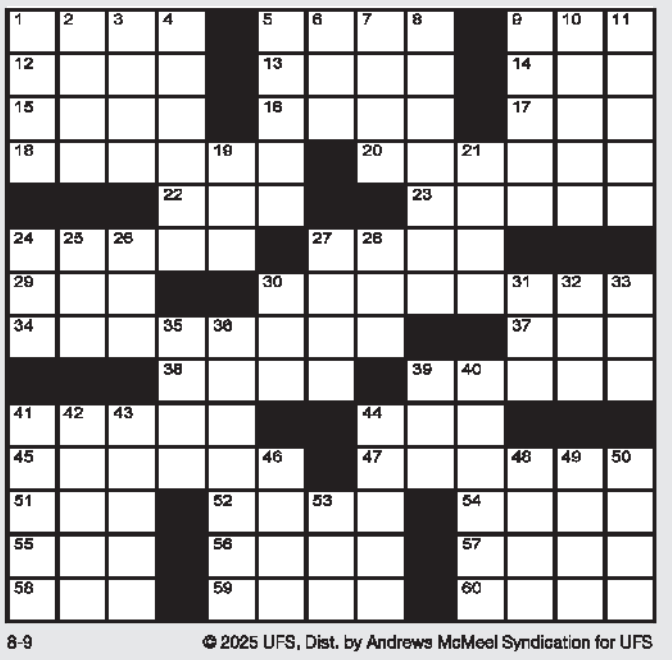
REALITY CHECK

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 "— -Dick"
5 Streetcar
9 Chemist's workplace
12 Field
13 "Miss Peregrine's — for Peculiar Children"
14 Every
15 Diagnostic image
16 "American —"
17 Estuary
18 Long (for)
20 Unriddled
22 Finish
23 Designer — von Furstenberg
24 Mild oath
27 Stylish
29 Farm animal
30 Plowed slowly
34 Made stable
37 High card
38 Developed
39 — operandi
41 False alarm
44 Tavern
45 Beat
47 Bring about
51 Wheel's circular edge
52 Easygoing
54 Building wings
55 Brewed beverage
56 Pennsylvania port
57 Morphology branch (Abbr.)
58 Marry
59 Tattered duds
60 Metallic fabric

DOWN
1 Reduce to pulp
2 Killer whale
3 Legume
4 Pulled
5 Fractional part
6 Singer — Stewart
7 Famous — cookies
8 Tuneful
9 Insect stage
10 Not of this world
11 Cutting part
19 Print measures
21 Defeat
24 Curved letter
25 Acquired
26 Solemn fear
27 Rowing team
28 Secreted
30 Stalemate
31 Young person
32 Old coin of France
33 — Moines, Iowa
35 Taj Mahal site
36 Bureau
39 Chess piece
40 Trying experience
41 Boater material
42 Where Santiago is
43 With weapons
44 Nips
46 Round dance
48 Forearm bone
49 Happy as a —
50 Punta del —
53 Fruit with many small seeds

ANSWER ON PAGE 6



8-9

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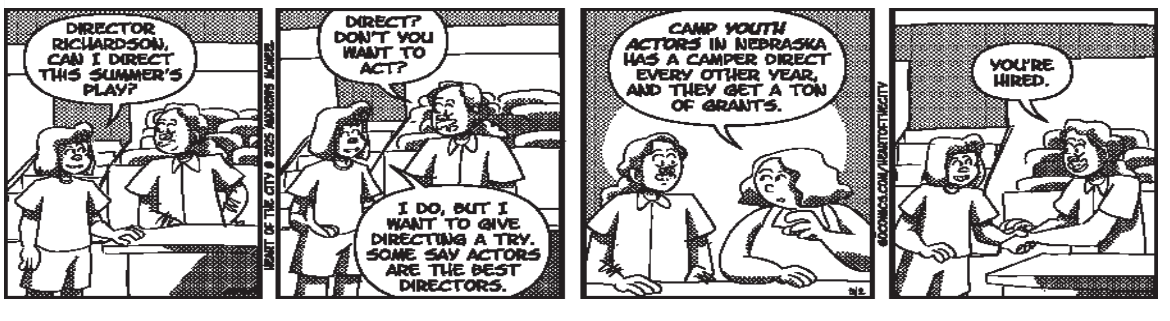
BREVITY

HEART OF THE CITY


DIRECTOR RICHARDSON, CAN I DIRECT THIS SUMMER'S PLAY?
DIRECT? DON'T YOU WANT TO ACT?
I DO, BUT I WANT TO GIVE DIRECTING A TRY. SOME SAY ACTORS ARE THE BEST DIRECTORS.
CAMP YOUTH! ACTORS IN NEBRASKA HAS A CAMPER DIRECT EVERY OTHER YEAR, AND THEY GET A TON OF GRANTS.
YOU'RE HIRED.

DEATH NOTICES

Stacey Lee Truax, 66, of Granger, Indiana, passed away on Wednesday, July 30th, 2025. Services will be held at Brown Funeral Home on Tuesday, August 5th, 2025, at 2:00pm.

Shawn Strawderman, 45, of Edwardsburg, passed Wednesday, July 30, 2025. Services held on August 6, 2025, at Brown Funeral Home starting at 7:00P.M. visitation two hours prior, in Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Floyd "Alex" Eskridge, 91, of Berrien Springs, passed away on Sunday, August 03, 2025. Arrangements have been entrusted to Allred Funeral Home. Services were on August 8 at Allred. www.AllredFuneralHome.com

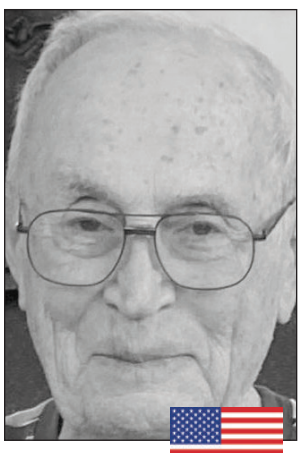
Donald Lynn Harris, 86, of Niles, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, August 2, 2025. Arrangements have been entrusted to and provided by Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Grace Geneva Ritter, 83, passed away on Thursday, July 31, 2025, in Niles, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Paul Burns, 73, passed away on Wednesday, August 6, 2025. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis.

Rex Lee Carpenter, 69, passed away on Tuesday, August 5, 2025. Services on August 15, 2025, at 11:00am at Brown Funeral Home. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home.

OBITUARIES



Victor Robert Grathwohl

July 28, 1931 - July 26, 2025

Victor Robert Grathwohl, 93, of Salisbury, North Carolina, passed away on Saturday, July 26, 2025, at the North Carolina State Veterans Home surrounded by family. He was born July 28, 1931, in Niles, Michigan, to the late Marshall Grathwohl and the late Eva Rayfuse Grathwohl.

Victor, the youngest of six children, grew up in Niles, graduated from Loras Academy in Dubuque, Iowa and attended Michigan State University. He was a veteran United States Navy Pipefitter serving in the Korean War on the USS Ajax and USS Dixie warships.

On June 18, 1960, in Niles, MI., Victor married Bette L. Warnke, recently celebrating their 65th anniversary. They were members of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Salisbury and former members of St. Basil Catholic Church in South Haven, Michigan.

Victor was a mechanical engineer in the paper manufacturing industry. He worked for Simplicity Pattern Company in Niles and Massena, New York, and James River Company, Kalamazoo, Michigan. He was a master craftsman, a remarkedly good tennis player, and a legendary apple pie connoisseur.

Most notably, Victor was a wonderful and kind person. His impish grin and quick wit drew people in. His love for family never wavered.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife Bette Grathwohl, son; David Grathwohl (Susan) of Salisbury, daughters; Kimberly Grathwohl of Fort Wayne, Indiana and Susan (Zach) Park of Tampa, Florida, granddaughters; Maggie Grathwohl of Wilmington, North Carolina, Abby (Chandler) Inions, of Salisbury.

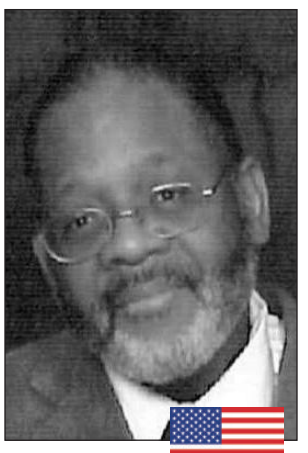
Victor was preceded in death by his sisters; Mary Ann (Richard) Drury, Betty (William) Vanderbeck, Margaret Bohner, and brothers; Joseph (Mary Lou) Grathwohl, and Father John Grathwohl.

Services will be held on October 1st at St. Basil Catholic Church, 513 Monroe Blvd. South Haven, Michigan, with Father Bob Flickinger officiating. Visitation 10:00am and Mass 11:00am.

The burial will be held on October 2nd at Calvary Cemetery in Niles at 1:00pm.

Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to: St. Basil Catholic Church www.saintbasilcatholicchurch.org/giving

Online condolences may be left at www.summersettfuneralhome.com. Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Grathwohl family.



Larry Neal Johnson

June 13, 1950 - July 31, 2025

Larry Neal Johnson, 75, of Cassopolis, died peacefully Thursday, July 31, 2025 in the comfort of his family's presence.

His life began June 13, 1950 in Chicago, Illinois, the first of five children born to John and Mabel Johnson. He married Deborah Collins on April 7, 1985 in Chicago, Illinois.

Larry loved the mechanics of working on cars and spent a lot of time rebuilding engines and fixing cars of all kinds. He enjoyed taking his wife, Deborah, out on cruises and traveling together. They spent twenty-seven years driving across the country trucking. A special memory for them was going to Indianapolis and Cincinnati watching the drag races. Larry was an avid Chicago Bears and Bulls fan. He loved his food, especially fried chicken, and steak. Larry was always well dressed and was the suit salesman's favorite customer. Known for his infectious laugh, Larry was always kind hearted and filled with wisdom.

Larry will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his wife of forty years, Deborah Ann Johnson of Cassopolis; one son, George Henry Johnson of Fort Wayne; one brother, Johnney Johnson of Memphis, Tennessee and a host of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Darlene Johnson, Pamela Johnson; and one brother, George Johnson.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, August 9, 2025 from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Larry be made to: American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), www.aspca.org

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Kathryn Jurgenson

July 28, 1952 - August 3, 2025

Kathryn Ruth Jurgenson, 73, of Three Rivers, formerly Dowagiac, passed away on Sunday, August 3, 2025. A private family inurnment will be held at Riverside Cemetery, Dowagiac. Arrangements have been entrusted to Clark Chapel, Dowagiac. Those wishing to send a condolence online may do so at www.clarkch.com. Kathryn was born on July 29, 1952, in Dowagiac. She graduated from Dowagiac Union High School, class of 1970. Professionally, Kathryn proudly dedicated many years as the secretary for Dayco Sheet Metal Company at the Cook Nuclear Power Plant in Bridgman. Kathryn had a vibrant spirit and found joy in life; soaking up the sunshine, slipping into a pair of fancy shoes, wearing a fancy hat, or dancing. She loved mushroom hunting, anything pink and cherished her nickname, "Baber", lovingly given to her by her Grandpa Mosher. A woman of faith, Kathryn attended Lester Sumrall Evangelistic Church in South Bend, now Christ Chapel. She found peace in reading her Bible and comfort in Gospel music. She also enjoyed Bingo and card games. Most of all, Kathryn cherished being a mother. Kathryn is survived by her daughter, Melissa Vylonis; granddaughters, Harper Bennett and Hattie Bennett; brothers, John (Nancy) Vylonis, Mark (Karen) Vylonis and sister, Kara (Pat) Shelton. She was preceded in death by her father, John C. Vylonis; mother, Louise (Mosher) Thumm; brother, Mike Vylonis and sister, Lynne Garrison.

Beverly Britton

Beverly (Hickerson) Britton, 93, passed away peacefully on July 28, 2025.

Beverly was born in Niles, Michigan, in 1931 to Wiley and Clela Hickerson.

Beverly graduated from Berrien Springs High School in Michigan in 1949. In June of 1950, she married Christopher Britton, who worked at the Kawneer Company in Niles, Michigan, as an engineer.

They lived in Berrien Springs, Michigan, for 34 years. For many years, Beverly worked for the National Standard Company in Niles, Michigan, as an administrative assistant to the personnel manager. In 1984, Bev and Chris were transferred to Atlanta, Georgia. While in Atlanta, Beverly spent her time volunteering for the Meals on Wheels program.

In 1993, Beverly became a caretaker of Chris as he developed Alzheimer's disease. Chris died in 1995. In 2002, Beverly moved to Windham, Maine, to be near her daughter, Bevie Jo Marquardt.

Beverly is survived by two daughters and a son: Bevie Jo Marquardt of Windham, Melody Fink of California, Maryland, and Alan Britton of Covington, Georgia. Beverly is also survived by five grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

Her new residence is in heaven with Jesus and her beloved husband, Chris and all of her family and friends.

To share memories or to leave Beverly's family an online condolence please visit,

www.dobsonfuneralservices.com

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www.monumentsbydesignllc.com
monumentsbydesign@gmail.com

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269-663-5345
Paul E. Mayhew, Owner

PUBLIC NOTICE

To all persons, including whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: TAKE NOTICE: Melissa Mashak has filed a petition for name change. A name change hearing will be held on August 26th at 10:45 AM at 811 Port Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085 in Courtroom 327 Via Zoom (meeting ID:623-630-9245 before Judge Paul Jancha to change the name Lucy Mae Pugh to Lucy Mae Mashak.

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NOTICE - PUBLIC LAND AUCTION

The Cass County Treasurer will offer tax-reverted real estate at public auction online at **www.tax-sale.info.**

The first auction will be held on **August 27th, 2025 from 10:00am to 7:00pm EDT.** Bids can also be placed up to 30 days in advance on the website. Assistance is available for those without computer or internet access.

Incomplete or voided sales from the August 27th, 2025 auction, if any, will be reoffered on September 26th, 2025 from 10:00am to 7:00pm EDT.

Unsold tax reverted real estate from either of the previous auctions, if any, will be re-offered on October 31st, 2025 in a sealed-bid auction. All bids must be placed by 7:00 pm EDT for this final sealed-bid auction.

Answers to common questions about the auction process and additional information can be found at **www.tax-sale.info/faq**

For more information and to view a list of the properties being offered, please visit **www.tax-sale.info** or call 1-800-259-7470. Auction listings may also be available at the County Treasurer's office.

EARNS

Continued from page A1

after an extensive search for the facility's leader. She had previously spent 13 years mastering each aspect of the long-term care industry, starting as a Certified Nursing Assistant, then as a billing manager for nursing facility, and later as a staffing manager, nursing scheduler and human resources manager.

"I remember crying and immediately calling my family to tell them, 'I finally made it,'" Schirripa said, recounting the day she was offered the administrator position. "I am extremely proud to serve our residents of the facility, our staff, families and the community that I grew up in."

Schirripa is a graduate of Ross Beatty High Junior/Senior High School in Cassopolis.

"I showed animals at the Cass County Fair. I spent many days on Diamond Lake swimming at the public access and enjoying what our small town had to offer," she said.

Schirripa said she does not take the recognition from Moody on the Market lightly.

"There are not enough words to express my gratitude to everyone that has supported me on my journey," she said. "To CCMCF residents, families and staff, I hope I get to continue serving you for all my years to come. We have such an amazing team and have come such a long way in the past eight months."

> "There are not enough words to express my gratitude to everyone that has supported me on my journey."
> — **Mercedes Schirripa**

Cass County Medical Care Facility is a nonprofit entity dedicated to providing quality care to senior citizens regardless of their income.

"I can say without a doubt that the team we have today at CCMCF are there because they care about our elderly and have hearts of gold ready to serve," she said. "I hope that our community and facility take pride in my recognition that they have a strong leader who has spent most of her adult life thus far mastering the long-term care industry and who is dedicated to ensuring your loved ones receive the best possible care."

Schirripa and the other members of the 40 Under 40 class will be recognized at a ceremony at The Inn at Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor later this month.

CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

M	O	B	Y		T	R	A	M		L	A	B
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R	I	M		S	O	F	T		E	L	L	S
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SUDOKU ANSWER
From Page 5

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8	3	6	2	9	7	4	1	5
7	1	5	8	6	4	2	3	9
9	5	1	4	2	8	7	6	3
4	8	7	9	3	6	1	5	2
6	2	3	7	1	5	9	4	8
5	9	2	3	4	1	6	8	7
1	6	8	5	7	2	3	9	4
3	7	4	6	8	9	5	2	1

FILE | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Berrien County Youth Fair returns Sunday

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BERRIEN SPRINGS — The Berrien County Fairgrounds is buzzing with life once again.

Residents from across the county are hard at work preparing for the annual Berrien County Youth Fair taking place from Monday, Aug. 11 to Saturday, Aug. 16.

The fair will host many 4-H club competitions, a carnival and grandstand entertainment.

General gate admission is $8 for adults daily, $5 for children 5 to 12 and free for children under the age of six.

Monday

8 a.m. – Judging of Equine; All Halter Classes, Driving (Equine Complex)

8:30 a.m. – Judging of Goats: Showmanship, Special Needs, Myotonics, Boer Goats, Market Classes (Show Arena)

9 a.m. – Garden/Farm Tractor Pulling Contests (Grandstand)

9 a.m. – Judging of Rabbits; Showmanship, Market, Pens of Two, Doe & Litter, Crossbreeds and Pets (Rabbit Tent)

1 p.m. – Judging of Lla.m.as/Alpacas; Showmanship, Performance, Special Needs (Show Arena)

3 p.m. – Judging of Cats; All Classes (Bldg. No. 34)

4 p.m. – Judging of Sheep; All Classes (Show Arena)

7 p.m. – NTPA Regional Truck & Tractor Pull featuring 4WD Trucks, Super Farm, Hot Farm & Limited Superstock Tractors (Grandstand)

Tuesday

8 a.m. – Judging of Equine; Fitting/Showman-ship, Open Ranchmanship & Open Ranch Trail (Equine Complex)

8:30 a.m. – Judging of Beef; All Classes (Show Arena)

9 a.m. – Judging of Rabbits; Show Rabbits (Rabbit Tent)

9 a.m. – Judging of Poultry; Showmanship & Market Classes (Poultry Tent)

9 a.m. – Judging of Dogs; Rally (Inclusive) Classes (Bldg. No. 34)

12 p.m. – Home Ec. Food Awards (Mall Stage)

12 to 4 p.m. – Law Day (Around Bldg. No. 38)

1:30 p.m. – Power in Motion (Mall Stage)

2:15 p.m. – Judging of Dogs; TR/NTR Costume (Bldg. No. 34)

2:45 p.m. – Fusion Center for Dance (Mall Stage)

4 p.m. – Dance Revolution (Mall Stage)

4 p.m. – Judging of Dogs; NTR Obedience & Agility (Bldg. No. 34)

4:30 p.m. – Judging of Goats; Dairy, Cart, Obstacle, Costume (Show Arena)

5 p.m. – READY Taekwondo (Mall Stage)

6 p.m. – Horticulture Contest (Youth Memorial Building)

7 p.m. – Vickie Page Band (Mall Stage)

1, 4, 7 p.m. – Circus Continental (Free)

Wednesday

8 a.m. – Judging of Equine; Saddle Seat, Hunt Seat, Discipline Rail - Eng/Western, Hunter/Jump-er, Crossrails, Mini/Pony in Hand Jumping - Open Mini/Pony (Equine Complex)

8:30 a.m. Judging of Dairy; All Classes (Show Arena)

9 a.m. Judging of Poultry; Show Classes (Poultry Tent)

9 a.m. – Judging of Rabbits; Costume (Rabbit Tent)

10 a.m. Judging of Dogs; Jr. Handling (Inclusive) (Bldg. No. 34)

12 p.m. – Home Ec. Clothing Awards (Mall Stage) All Cha.m.pion & Reserve Cha.m.pion Winners

12:30 p.m.-Judging of Goats; Other Breeds Classes, Pygmy Classes, Pet Wethers (Show Arena)

1 p.m. – Judging of Llamas/Alpacas; Costume, Jackpot, Leaping, Limbo and Paper Chain (Show Arena)

1:30 p.m. – Style Show (Mall Stage)

2 p.m. – Judging of Dogs TR; Obedience (Bldg. No. 34)

3:30 p.m. – Flower Awards (Mall Stage)

5 p.m. – Judging of Equine; Flags and Cloverleaf (Equine Complex)

5 p.m. – Joy Bringers Bell Choir (Mall Stage)

6 p.m. – Dog Meet & Greet (Bldg. No. 34)

6 p.m. Guest Speaker Chuck Jager, Executive Director from Morton House Museum (Bldg. No. 13)

7 p.m. Larry Johnson (Mall Stage)

Thursday

8 a.m. – Judging of Equine; Horsemanship, Pleasure & Western Riding (Equine Complex)

8:30 a.m. – Judging of Swine; Showmanship, Market Classes (Breed classes run first) (Show Arena)

9 a.m. – Judging of Dogs; Scent Work Classes (Inclusive) (Bldg. No. 34)

9:30 a.m. – Small Animal Auction

Rabbits followed by Chicken Eggs, Turkeys and Chickens (Rabbit Tent)

12 p.m. – Horticulture Awards (Mall Stage) All Cha.m.pion & Reserve Cha.m.pion Winners

1:30 p.m. – Dance Arts (Mall Stage)

2 p.m. – Judging of Dogs; TR Agility (Bldg. No. 34)

2:30 p.m. – Green Dance Academy (Mall Stage)

3 p.m. – Pedal Pull Contest (South End of Commercial Buildings)

3:30 p.m. Sunset Coast Country Dancers (Mall Stage)

5 p.m. – 99.9 Y-Country Youth Talent Show Winners (Mall Stage)

6 p.m. – Guest Speaker Dr. Brian Carroll from the Israelite House of David discussing Resorts of Berrien County (Bldg. No. 13)

7 p.m. – Fresh Cut Grass (Mall Stage)

Friday

8 a.m. – Judging of Equine; In Hand Trail, Jr. & Sr. Trail, Dressage (Equine Complex)

9 a.m. – Large Animal Auction; Sheep, Quart of Goat Milk, Goats (Show Arena)

9 a.m. – Judging of Pocket Pets (Rabbit Tent)

10:30 a.m. – Overall Small Animal Showmanship Sweepstakes (Bldg. No. 34)

12 p.m. – Large Animal Auction; Grand Champion Dairy Gallon of Milk followed by Beef (Show Arena)

12 p.m. – Crafts Awards (Mall Stage) All Champion & Reserve Champion Winners

1:30 p.m. – "Cooking from the Garden, Part IV" with the Clear Family (Home Ec. Building)

2 p.m. – Large Animal Auction; Swine (Show Arena)

2:30 p.m. – Back Pocket (Mall Stage)

4 p.m. – "Scrappy Quilts" with The Hinchman Stitchers (Home Ec. Building)

5 p.m. – Yesterday's Children (Mall Stage)

6 p.m. – Guest Speaker Nick Bogart Discussing The Warrens of Three Oaks (Bldg. No. 13)

8 p.m. – Van Dyke Revue (Mall Stage)

Saturday

8 a.m. – Judging of Equine; Gymkhana except Flags and Cloverleaf Classes (Equine Complex)

9 a.m.– Judging of Communications

9 a.m. – Judging of Youth Tractor Operators Contest (Show Arena)

9 a.m. – Still Exhibit Auction (Rabbit Tent)

11 a.m. – Citadel Center for Dance (Mall Stage)

12 p.m. – Elvis (Mall Stage)

12 p.m. – Overall Large Animal Showmanship Sweepstakes (Show Arena)

2 p.m. – Flash Back (Mall Stage)

2:30 p.m. – Ag-Olympics (Show Arena)

4 p.m. – Judging of Equine; PEP Exhibitors, Riding and Showmanship Classes (Equine Complex)

5 p.m. – Blue Shoes Jazz (Mall Stage)

5:45 p.m. – Parade of Champions (Ends in Show Arena)

8 p.m. – Harbor Town (Mall Stage)

TIP

Continued from page A4

weapons and 228 tips resulting in the seizure of drugs or alcohol. Additionally, 343 schools conducted a comprehensive behavioral threat assessment and/or a suicide assessment because of an OK2SAY tip.

OK2SAY is available 24/7 and tips can be submitted in the following ways:

- Call: 8-555-OK2SAY (855-565-2729)
- Text: 652729 (OK2SAY)
- Email: OK2SAY@mi.gov
- OK2SAY website: www.ok2say.com
- OK2SAY mobile app: Available for download in app stores for iPhone and Android.

Michigan law requires every public and nonpublic school to provide the MSP with at least one school official's emergency contact information biannually. Contact information can be reported or updated here.

OK2SAY program outreach is housed within the MSP Grants and Community Services Division, Office of School Safety (OSS). The OSS is committed to delivering quality services to schools that promote safe and secure learning environments to reduce threats, build trust and improve the quality of life for K-12 students in Michigan. Created under the authority of Public Act 435 of 2018, the OSS works in partnership with the Michigan Department of Education to do the following:

- Assist in the development of model practices for school safety and engage with local law enforcement agencies to assess school buildings for which emergency operations plans are being developed.
- Seek and apply for federal funds relating to school safety and reducing violence and disruptions in schools.
- Provide staff support to the School Safety Commission, which is responsible for making recommendations to the OSS.

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The Cass District Library has announced the appointment of Christopher Korenowsky (pictured) as its new Library Director.

Cass District Library Appoints Christopher Korenowsky as New Library Director

COMMUNITY REPORT

Cassopolis — The Cass District Library is pleased to announce the appointment of Christopher Korenowsky as its new Library Director, effective Monday, Aug. 18.

Korenowsky will succeed Barbara Gordon, who departed from the library in June after more than six years of service.

Korenowsky brings a wealth of experience to the Cass District Library, with a distinguished career spanning over 20 years in library leadership and administration. Most recently, he served as Chief of Operations at the Detroit Public Library, where he played a pivotal role in rallying public support for Proposal L, thereby securing the library's funding for the next ten years.

"We're thrilled to welcome Chris, whose exceptional vision and experience bring new energy to Cass District Library," says Eileen Toney, Library Board President. "His deep commitment to public service and community engagement will help expand and enrich a resource that serves thousands across Cass County."

Korenowsky holds a Master of Information Management and Library Science with a focus on Management and Reference Services from Kent State University as well as a Bachelor of the Arts in English Literature from Ohio State University. He is dedicated to fostering community relationships and is eager to collaborate with various organizations throughout Cass County and Southwest Michigan

"I am delighted to be joining the Cass District Library as its next Library Director," said Korenowsky. "It would be difficult to overstate the many wonderful public services and exciting community initiatives that the library system offers its patrons. From the excitement of the summer reading program for local children and families, to the many online resources such as Hoopla Digital, the library is a destination in the region."

He also shared his enthusiasm for the Edwardsburg Branch build project, which is expected to be finished by year-end. "The new location will offer expanded print collections and new innovative technologies, as well as a much desired 1,143 square foot community room that will comfortably seat 60 people. It is an honor to be joining the Cass Library District at a very exciting time in its history. I am looking forward to serving the people of Cass County."

South Bend man gets probation for crashing car into vehicles

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — A South Bend man who crashed his car into other vehicles in Niles township received probation Monday in Berrien County Trial Court.

Steven Jerry Ferren, 64, of South Bend, formerly of Baroda, pleaded no contest to two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon as well as failure to stop at a personal injury accident and false report of a misdemeanor and was sentenced to two years probation, credit for 61 days served, $1,862.18 in restitution and $1,856 i

Ferren

The incident occurred June 5 in Niles Township. The dangerous weapon in this case was his car as he crashed into other vehicles.

Defense attorney Carrie Briseno called the events of that day "scary for everyone". She said that Ferren, who is a veteran, can't remember the incident. She noted that he hadn't slept for two days and then overmedicated and drove a car. "He only realized that something bad had happened when he saw his sister's face when she was talking to police," she said.

"I'm so sorry," Ferren told Berrien County Trial Court Judge Gordon Hosbein. "I did go a couple of days without sleep and I thought it would be alright to take medication. I really regret it, I wish I could take it all back. Not knowing what happened to the other people scared me."

"I've tried all my life to live straight," he added. "I want to pay her (the victim) back as soon as I can. I'm taking Bible study classes in jail. I'm just so sorry it happened, I would love to apologize. I know I did it but I can't believe I did it."

Thairek Savangvongsavanh, 23, of Niles, pleaded guilty to two counts of stealing/retaining a financial transaction device without consent and was sentenced to two years probation, credit for 63 days served, $559.96 restitution and $726 in fines and costs.

Savangvongsavanh

The incidents occurred Aug. 17 and Aug. 25, 2024 in Niles.

Defense attorney Ryan Wojtowicz noted that his client has no other criminal history and has had time to reflect on his actions while he's been in jail. For his part, Savangvongsavanh said he had learned his lesson and will never do the crime again.

In other sentencings:

- Kenya Deneall Smith-Covington, 65, of Riverdale, Ill., pleaded guilty to possession of a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle and disturbing the peace and was sentenced to credit for 45 days served, forfeited the weapon and $308 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred Dec. 2, 2024 in Niles.

- Briseno told the court that Smith-Covington was scared of the man she was living with and carried a weapon for protection. For her part, Smith-Covington said the man threatened her and she just wants to get away from him.

Smith-Covington

Judge Hosbein said that while Smith-Covington said that she is afraid of the man, she continues to have contact with him. "If you were abused and you're terrified of him, go, go away," he said. "The course of this case suggests something different … I feel terrible for you and wish you well but I'm not convinced that you won't go back to him."

- A 21-year-old Buchanan woman pleaded guilty to larceny in a building and was sentenced under the Holmes Youthful Training Act to 18 months probation, credit for 21 days served, 30 hours of community service, $244 in restitution and $218 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred Dec. 18, 2020 in Buchanan. The sentence will not be entered on her record if she is successful on probation.

Defense attorney Stephanie Teeple said the 21-year-old Buchanan woman was just 17 at the time of the incident and in an abusive relationship. Teeple said the 21-year-old Buchanan woman plans to get her high school diploma as well as counseling.

"I did learn my lesson," she said.

HISTORY

Continued from page A1

Erika Hartley. "How big are those boundaries of the fort? Since we don't have a map, we also are hoping to learn a little bit more of what's going on away from the structures as people are occupying the space, or where are they occupying and how does that fit in with what we do know already? It's pretty exciting."

Sarett Nature Center offered rides on a 30-foot replica voyageur canoe along the St. Joseph River.

Guests were invited to tour the excavation area where display tables of artifacts were provided. Student finds from this season include lead and animal bones as well as ceramics, a silver brooch and a ring band, lead and more.

"We know that people are fashionable, " Hartley said. "They want to look like their counterparts in France or in Europe in general and so they were importing these items over and wearing them at Fort St. Joseph. They're really aware of what others are doing, and they want to resemble that as well."

Staff member Naomi Washington attended the field school last year as a student at Western and enjoyed the opportunity so much that she returned to assist this year.

"This site is so unique that I can't stay away," she said. "I think it's really interesting to find more and more evidence on how they were using this site and its portage down to the Mississippi is essential and it just was really interesting to me, got my attention and it won't let go of me now."

One of the highlights from the dig site this year was the continued excavation of a large fireplace and the structure that would have been built around it.

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

"We've been trying to see which direction that house goes on site because we don't have the maps," she said. "This year we opened up and we realized that that would expand much farther into the ground. You get little pieces of the site each year when you come back. We learn more and more about what the people are doing, what they were eating, how they were dressing, how they were living and how they built this life out at Fort St Joseph."

In addition to touring the site, guests were able to engage Fort St. Joseph re-enactors who portrayed "people of the post" and offer fun activities and demonstrations. Attendance and all of the Open House activities were free though donations were accepted to support the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project. Sponsors included Support the Fort, Inc., the City of Niles, and Western Michigan University.

Each year, the project hosts summer lecture series and summer camps. Campers of all ages will learn about archaeology and the history of Fort St. Joseph at the Niles District Library. In addition, they will perform lab activities and excavate at the site alongside WMU archaeologists and students. For questions, or more information, please contact the Niles History Center at nileshistory@nilesmi.org or 269-845-4054.

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SHOW

Continued from page A1

option. Additionally, the Dowagiac Fire Department will be grilling hot dogs and brats for lunch as well as offering popcorn and cotton candy for donations that benefit both the department and Cass County Cancer Service.

This event would not be possible without the support of the following sponsors: 1st Source Bank, Creative Vinyl Signs, C.Wimberley Automall, Division Tire, Dowagiac Auto Service, Dowagiac Eagles, Hale's Ace Hardware, Imperial Furniture, Jim D's Body Shop, John and Curt's Brake and Alignment, Lake Effect HVAC, R & R Upholstery, Southwestern Michigan College Automotive Technology, Snap on Tools-Wayne Browning, Symonds Machine, Who Knew Consignment, and Wings, etc.

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MHSAA

MHSAA: Participation fee usage remains at lower post-pandemic level

By GEOFF KIMMERLY
MHSAA.com senior editor

LANSING — The annual Michigan High School Athletic Association participation fee survey saw record response for the 2024-25 school year and revealed good news as the percentage of member high schools charging student-athletes to play sports remained consistent with lowered post-pandemic levels.

Of the 720 schools (95 percent of membership) which responded to the most recent survey, only 40 percent of MHSAA member high schools (286) charged participation fees in 2024-25 – consistent with the rates between 40-41 percent revealed annually by the survey the previous four school years after the COVID-19 pandemic struck during the late winter and spring of 2020. Prior to the pandemic, a high of 57 percent of member schools charged participation fees in 2013-14, and 48 percent of high schools required pay-to-play in 2019-20.

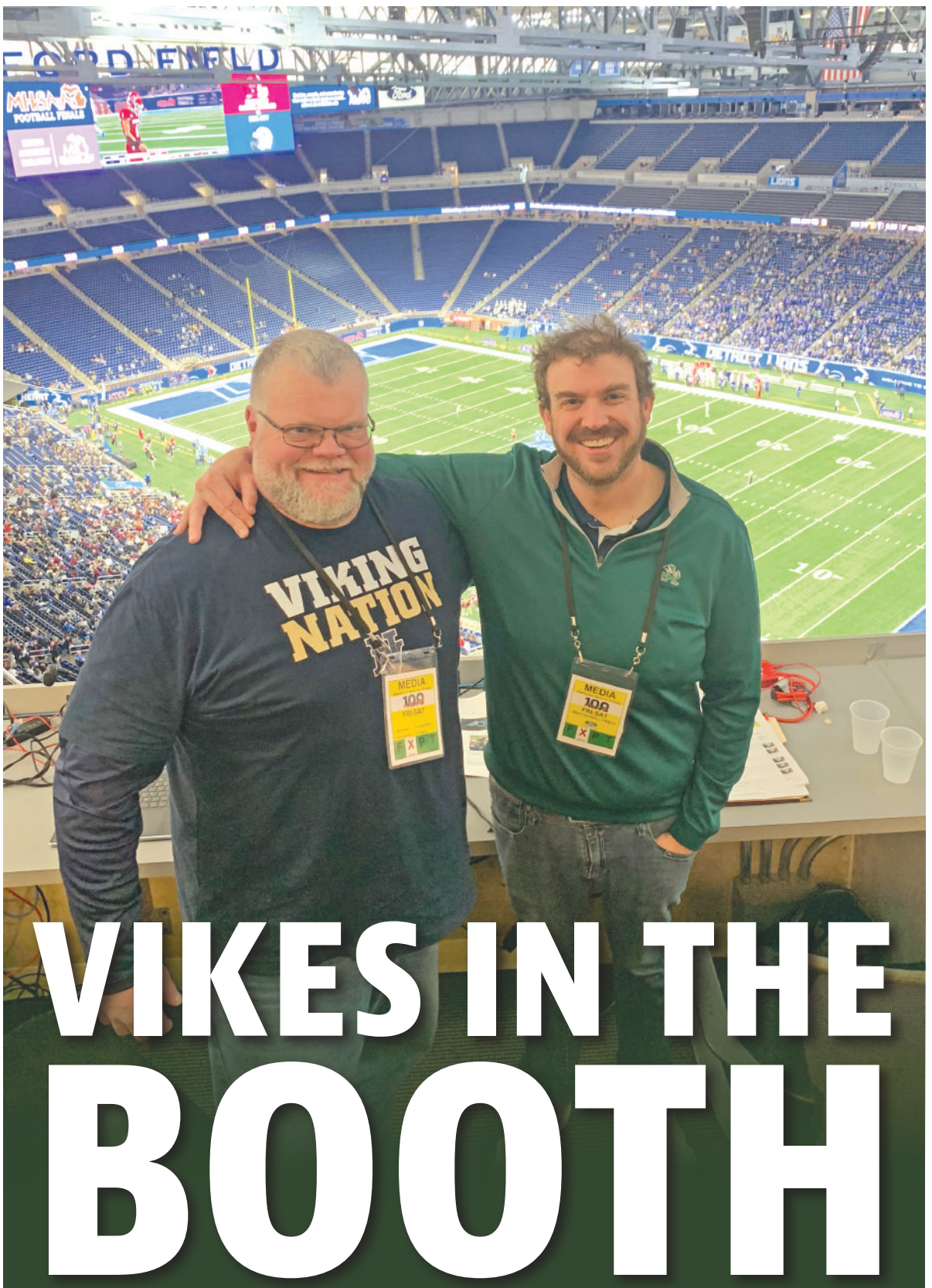
The MHSAA began conducting the participation fee survey with the 2003-04 school year. For the purposes of the survey, a participation fee is anything $20 or more regardless of what the school called the charge – registration fee, athletic fee, etc.

Class A schools, as has been the trend, made up the largest group charging fees in 2024-25, with 53 percent of respondents doing so. Class B schools followed, with 40 percent charging fees, while 34 percent of Class C schools and 32 percent of Class D

See MHSAA, Page B2

FILE | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

FOOTBALL



VIKES IN THE BOOTH

Niles football broadcasting duo ready for 2025 season

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — When the Niles Vikings football team begins its quest to return to Ford Field this season, a familiar duo will be there to cover it every step of the way.

Andy Stuver and Bob Burch will return to the broadcast booth this fall to cover Niles football at AJSportscasting.com. The two Niles grads (Stuver '03, Burch '90) have been covering home and away games for the Vikings since 2012 under different company names and are looking forward to beginning their third season as AJSportscasting.

"Andy and I work really well together," Burch said. "We've got a good rapport and have a great time."

The two volunteers created AJSportscasting to bring a quality product to Niles student athletes, parents, fans and alumni near and far to create a connection between the team and the community, especially those who cannot make it to the game.

"We're all web-based, so we can get to anybody in the world, which is one of the beauties of what we do," Stuver said. "It's the goal for us and it's an enjoyable thing to enjoy a Friday night, hanging out together in a booth watching a football game, talking about it and doing our best to paint the picture for the people at home so they can see what the team is doing. We love being able to bring that to people and allow them to enjoy the experience as well."

"We're volunteers, we do this for fun," Burch added. "Andy and I dedicated ourselves to try to call the game we like to hear it called – like some of the old-fashioned announcers – and we have fun with it. Last year, we incorporated talking about the history of Niles players, and team records and we really had a good time with it."

The Vikings are coming off their best season in program history and AJSportscasting was along for the ride. Burch and Stuver were there calling the state championship game at Ford Field, a moment they will not soon forget.

"It puts a lot of wind in our sails," Stuver said. "It's a lot of fun to cover a team even when they're not so good – you appreciate the kids, you appreciate the effort, you appreciate the work that everybody's putting into the product – but to then see that pay off and end up at Ford Field last year. We got to be in a booth, a professional broadcast booth and call a game was an incredible experience. I can't even imagine what it's like getting down on that field and to play and what

See BOOTH, Page B2

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Bob Burch (left) and Andy Stuver (right) covered the Niles Vikings' run to Ford Field.

FOOTBALL

Love selected to 2025 Walter Camp Player of the Year Watch List

Courtesy of Notre Dame Athletics

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Junior running back Jeremiyah Love has earned selection to the 2025 Walter Camp Player of the Year Watch List. The award is presented annually to the collegiate football player of the year.

Four Notre Dame players have been named the Walter Camp Player of the Year in the award's history: TE Ken MacAfee (1977), FL Tim Brown (1987), FL

See LOVE, Page B3

VOLLEYBALL

Harpenau takes reins of Niles volleyball program

By SCOTT HASSINGER
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — Niles High School has hired one of its own to lead its volleyball program into the future.

Abbie Harpenau, a 2019 graduate, has taken the reins of the Vikings' program replacing former head coach Vince Strefling.

Harpenau

"I'm excited to be working with these girls. One of my goals is to teach them that volleyball is more than just a sport. It teaches you to move with confidence both on and off the court and in life," Harpenau said.

Even though this is Harpenau's first head coaching gig at the high school level, she is no stranger to the coaching profession. She served on Strefling's coaching staff as a volunteer assistant during the Lady Vikings' run to the Division 2 regional semifinals in 2024. She also coached third and fourth grade girls last fall in the Spikers' League and served as a 13U coach at the Blue Volleyball Academy from December 2024 to May 2025.

"I am very excited to have Abbie join our coaching staff. She has an incredible work ethic, great knowledge of the game and has been mentored by two great former coaches of hers in Jenny Nate and Vince Strefling. We are very lucky

See REINS, Page B3

SPORTS

Notre Dame Athletics launches yearlong celebration of women's sports

Courtesy of Notre Dame Athletics

SOUTH BEND, Ind. – In recognition of 50 years of women's varsity athletics at the University of Notre Dame, the University announced on July 30, 2025 that it will launch the "Cheer Her Name" initiative to celebrate all the individuals who have and continue to contribute to the remarkable success of our women's programs.

Throughout the course of the 2025-26 academic year, Notre Dame Athletics plans to shine a spotlight on the history and accomplishments of its women's varsity sports programs and to engage with key stakeholders through special campus events, connecting student-athletes, alumni and fans.

"We are excited to launch this yearlong celebration of our women's athletic programs at the University," said University vice president and James E. Rohr Director of Athletics Pete Bevacqua. "I am looking forward to meeting and celebrating many of our past student-athletes from the past five decades over the next year and hope that this provides increased growth and exposure to our women's programs at Notre Dame."

The highlighted celebration of the year will take place on campus during the weekend of September 19-21 when Notre Dame Football hosts Purdue. An invitation was extended to all female former student-athletes and others who have supported Notre Dame women's sports, to return to campus to be recognized and celebrated. A full calendar of weekend events includes the opportunity to attend several social and athletic events, including a Friday night reception followed by the Notre Dame Volleyball match vs. Michigan. An enhanced focus on the past and present accomplishments of Notre Dame Women's Athletics will continue throughout the year.

Notre Dame currently has 13 women's athletic programs. After the establishment of tennis in 1976, Notre Dame has added fencing, field hockey, basketball, volleyball, swimming and diving, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, indoor and outdoor track and field, lacrosse, and rowing through the years. In addition to numerous individual national titles, Fighting Irish women's teams have won 16 national championships in fencing, soccer, and basketball. In the fall of 2022, the Notre Dame Monogram Club presented more than 250 honorary monograms to both the founders of the Women's Athletic Association and the women who competed for Notre Dame during the first five years of coeducation between 1972-77.

BASKETBALL

U-M men's hoops announces home-and-home with Villanova

Courtesy of Michigan Athletics

ANN ARBOR — The University of Michigan men's basketball team announced Wednesday a home-and-home series with Villanova.

The first game is scheduled to be played at Crisler Center on Tuesday, Dec. 9. The return game, at Villanova, is to be determined. Television and tip time will be released on a later date.

The home-and-home series will mark the seventh and eighth games between the Wolverines and Wildcats. Overall, the Wolverines trail 4-2 in the all-time series, with the last game resulting in a 63-55 U-M loss in the 2022 NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16. Three of the six series games have been in the NCAA Tournament, including the 2018 national title game.

Overall, five of the six games have been played at a neutral site. The lone campus game was part of the Gavitt Tipoff Games at Villanova on Nov. 14, 2018, which U-M won 73-46 at Finneran Pavilion.

The Maize and Blue is guided by Dusty May, who in his first season led the Wolverines to a 27-10 record, won the Big Ten Tournament and advanced to the Sweet 16 for a sixth straight NCAA Tournament.

After three seasons at Maryland, Kevin Williard begins his first season at Villanova and returns to the Big East following a 12-year career at Seton Hall (2011-22). Last season, he guided the Terrapins to a 27-9 record, tied U-M for second place in the Big Ten (14-6) and advanced to the Sweet 16.

Basketball tickets are slated to go on sale in the fall, but Maize and Blue fans can join the ticket interest list to be notified when tickets are available as well as receive other Wolverine basketball news.

BOOTH

Continued from page B1

those kids experienced. Obviously it didn't work out but we hope to change that this year. It was incredible to see the renaissance take place to have the kids come back out to get involved, get engaged, to grow the team and to improve the team that they have to be the second best team in the state.

"That's something we never thought we would see."

"When Andy and I got started, it was difficult," Burch added. "We were learning to do the job and it was difficult sometimes, but the Niles community always stuck behind the Vikings, even in those difficult years where maybe all the W's weren't on the scoreboard like they are now."

The duo said the feedback they received from listeners last year was positive, with even listeners from other schools appreciating their coverage.

"This area's had a really good bunch of football teams around it," Burch said. "We've had the opportunity to acknowledge those other kids from those other schools because at the end of the day, it's all for the kids. We've had opposing fans tune in to us just because they've heard that we acknowledge that they made a good play, you know, acknowledgment. I think as well as we work together that comes across in the broadcast. We've been to a lot of places, a lot of nice stadiums. We get taken care of and everybody's super nice to us throughout the whole game. They're happy, we're here."

"We're unabashedly Niles fans, we make no bones about who we would like to see win the football game because we're from Niles," Stuver said. "We both went here, we both loved it here. But to have other people tune in from other teams from other schools because we're broadcasting the game or just because they've heard that we are fair and we're equitable means a lot. If you do something, we're going to talk about it. It doesn't matter if you're wearing a gold helmet, green helmet, orange helmet or what's happening on the field. We're going to tell it as it is, and I think people appreciate that from other schools as well."

Burch and Stuver will be on hand for when Niles opens the 2025 season at home against St. Joseph Friday, Aug. 29. For more information, visit AJSportscasting.com or find them on Facebook at AJSportscasting.

MHSAA

Continued from page B1

schools also charged for participation.

A standardized fee for each team on which a student-athlete participates – regardless of the number of teams – has remained the norm over the history of the MHSAA's survey, and 43 percent of schools charging a fee during 2024-25 did so in this way. That was followed by 34 percent of responding schools charging a one-time standardized fee and 17 percent assessing fees based on tiers of the number of sports a student-athlete plays (for example, charging a larger fee for the first team and less for additional sports).

For 2024-25, the median maximum amount a school charged per student-athlete for the school year was $150, and the median annual maximum charged per family was $370. For schools charging student-athletes a one-time fee to cover all sports played, the median was $125. For schools charging a fee per sport, the median was $100 for each team.

The survey for 2024-25 and surveys from previous years can be found on the Pay-To-Play Survey page.

LOVE

Continued from page B1

Raghib Ismail (1990) and LB Manti Te'o (2012).

Love, already named a Walter Camp Preseason All-American and to the Maxwell Award Watch List, comes off a statement 2024 campaign for Notre Dame. He rushed for a touchdown in each of the first 13 games of 2024 and totaled 17 rushing touchdowns, in addition to two receiving touchdowns. Love posted 1,125 rushing yards in 2024, the 21st time an Irish player has broken the 1,000-yard rushing mark in a season.

He averaged 6.9 yards per carry, which ranked ninth nationally in 2024 among players with 100 or more carries, and he tied for second among all single-season 1,000-yard rushers in ND records (Reggie Brooks, 1992, 8.0 – 1,343; Josh Adams, 2017, 6.9 – 1,430).

Love was the only FBS player to score a rushing touchdown in every regular season game that season. He broke the record for the most consecutive games with a rushing touchdown in Notre Dame history with 13 (passing 11 – Wayne Bullock, 1973-74, 17 total rushing TDs during streak). The 13-consecutive games to start a season is also a program record, besting Autry Denson's season-opening run of 10 in 1998

Notre Dame's rushing offense ranked No. 4 among the Power 4 in yards per carry (5.66), ranking No. 7 among all FBS teams. The Irish ranked No. 6 among Power 4 teams in rushing offense (210.8).

Love, Jadarian Price and Riley Leonard each had at least 700 rushing yards and seven rushing touchdowns in 2024, the only FBS team to have a trio accomplish that feat that season. Notre Dame tied for second at the end of the regular season among all FBS teams in rushes of 50 or more yards with seven (by four players, with seven touchdowns).

With 45 rushing touchdowns in 2024, the Irish led all Power 4 teams and ranked third among all FBS programs in rushing touchdowns.

REINS

Continued from page B1

and excited to have her on board," said Niles athletic director Matt Brawley.

Harpenau played her high school volleyball under former Vikings' head coach Jenny Nate. In her sophomore year she played an integral part in helping lead Niles to the Elite 8 in 2017. She was selected first-team All-Wolverine Conference her junior and senior year and All-State Honorable Mention as a senior. She was voted All-Region in 2017 as well and also earned second-team Academic All-State honors during her prep career.

After leaving Niles, Harpenau, a middle and right-side hitter, took her volleyball talents to Glen Oaks Community College where she played under Strefling in the 2019 and 2020 seasons. She earned Junior College Freshman Player of the Year Honors and was named to the first-team All-Conference squad as a freshman and sophomore.

Harpenau transfered to Aquinas College for her final two collegiate seasons and was a member of the program for 1 1/2 seasons before a shoulder injury forced her to end her playing career.

Harpenau credits her volleyball training with Strefling as a big key to her development as a player and person. That should also bode well as she embarks further on her coaching career.

"A huge shout out goes to Vince. He helped me become a better athlete and become a good player. When I was on the fence about coaching he encouraged me and he's a big part of the person I am today," Harpenau said.

Harpenau is excited about the start of the 2025 season that will see the Vikings return several players from last year's district championship team, including Division 2 Player of the Year Candidate Nyla Hover.

"I'd also like to give a huge shoutout to Matt Brawley, our athletic director, for believing in me. His hope and faith in me leading the program has been a great support. Now I am eager to make this program grow and the girls are working hard to get things going in the right direction. Our approach is to control our side of the net and focus on our game while having fun at the same time," Harpenau said.

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Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

HVBLAGRANGE TOWNSHIP
CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PUBLIC HEARING
LAGRANGE TOWNSHIP DIAMOND LAKE AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT 2025-2029

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF LAGRANGE TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board of LaGrange Township, as authorized by PA 188 of 1954 as amended and upon its own motion, proposes to undertake an aquatic plant control project, (with associated activities including aquatic plant control oversight/coordination, administration and contingencies) on Diamond Lake in LaGrange Township as more particularly described below and to continue a special assessment district for the recovery of the costs thereof by special assessment against the properties benefited. The proposed special assessment district will replace the previous special assessment district which expired in 2024.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the special assessment district within which the foregoing improvements are proposed to be made and within which the costs thereof are to be specially assessed includes parcels with frontage on Diamond Lake and/or back lots with deeded or dedicated access to Diamond Lake.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has received plans showing the proposed aquatic plant control project, associated activities, any proposed improvements, and locations thereof, together with an estimate of the cost of the project in the amount of $33,000, which would be an annual cost of approximately $5518 per year, for five years (2025-2029). The cost of the project proposed to be raised by special assessment is the total project cost, less any costs that will be off-set by any carryover of surplus funds from the expired special assessment district. The Lagrange Township Board passed a resolution tentatively declaring its intention to undertake such project and to create the afore-described special assessment district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has placed the project plans and costs estimates on file with the Township Clerk and said plans, cost estimates and special assessment districts may be examined at the Clerk's office from the date of this Notice to the date of the public hearing and may further be examined at such public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board proposes to make a per-parcel special assessment each year for a period of five years (2025-2029 inclusive).The annual assessment is proposed to be approximately $62 per year for front lots and approximately $31 per year for back lots. Additionally, the Township Board reserves the right to levy a lesser assessment amount in any year that there are more funds in the special assessment district fund than the amount needed for that year's aquatic plant control work and associated activities. The Township Board will provide notice of any increase in the assessment amount over 10%, as required by law.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a public hearing on the plans, establishment of the district, cost estimates and the carryover of surplus funds from the expired special assessment district will be held at the LaGrange Township Hall, 58523 M-62, Cassopolis, Michigan, on August 18, 2025 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

At the hearing, the Board will consider any written objections and comments to any of the foregoing matters which are filed with the clerk at or before the hearing and any objections or comments raised at the hearing; and at the hearing (or any adjournment of the hearing which may be made without further notice), the township board may revise, correct, amend or change the plans, cost estimates, carryover of any surplus funds or the special assessment district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if written objections to the project are filed with the Township Board at or before the hearing, signed by the record owners of land constituting more than 20% of the area within the proposed special assessment district, the township board may not proceed unless petitions in support of the project, signed by record owners of more than 50% of the area to be made into a special assessment district, are filed with the township board. Written comments or objections may be filed with the Township clerk at the address set out below.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that appearance and protest at the public hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the State Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the special assessment roll is confirmed. An owner or party in interest, or his/her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file at or before the hearing his/her appearance or protest by letter and in such case, personal appearance shall not be required. All interested persons are invited to be present in person or by representative and to submit comments concerning the reestablishment of the special assessment district, the plans, cost estimates or the carryover of surplus funds.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if the Township Board determines to proceed with the special assessment, the Board will cause a special assessment roll to be prepared and another hearing will be held, after notice to record owners of property proposed to be specially assessed, to hear public comments concerning the proposed special assessments.

LaGrange Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon five (5) days' notice to the Township Clerk at the address below.

Tasha E. McCoy
LaGrange Township Clerk
24863 Pokagon Highway
Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 233-4004

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN IN THE 43RD CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF CASS SIMPLIFY REAL ESTATE, LLC, a foreign limited liability company, Plaintiff, v THOMISON GROUP, LLC, a foreign limited liability company, and MATTHEW L. THOMISON, joint and several, Defendants. HON. CAROL M. BEALOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE CASE NO.: 24- 000635 - CH Gary D. Popovits (P63861) PEZZETTI, VERMETTEN, POPOVITS & UMU-

Public Notices

LIS, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff 600 E. Front Street, Suite 102 - P.O. Box 5817 Traverse City, MI 49696-5817 (231) 929-3450 NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE 1. On June 2, 2025, the Circuit Court for the County of Cass, State of Michigan, entered a Judgment of Foreclosure in this matter (the "Judgment" in Case No. 24-00635-CH) in favor of Simplify Real Estate, LLC ("Simplify") and against Defendants, Thomison Group, LLC, a foreign limited liability company, and Matthew L. Thomison ("Defendants") in the above-referenced matter. 2. As of the date of this notice, the Judgment in the amount of $211,495.46, plus interest from entry of the judgment and all allowable costs in this action, remains unsatisfied. Therefore, pursuant to the terms of the Judgment, on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at a public auction to be held in at the Cass County Law & Courts Building Lobby, I shall offer for sale to the highest bidder all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants in and to the real property described as follows: Land Situated in the City of Dowagiac, County of Cass, and State of Michigan, and more fully described as follows: Lot Numbered 22, Patrick Hamilton's Addition to the Village (now City) of Dowagiac, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber L of Deeds, Page 219, Cass County Records. Commonly known as: 208 W. Division Street, Dowagiac, Michigan 49047 Parcel Number: 14-160-200-273-00 3. The sale of the Property shall be as a single parcel free and clear of all easements, liens, encumbrances and claims arising since August 22, 2023, the date that the Mortgage was recorded at the Cass County Register of Deeds. The sale is subject to liens and other restrictions recorded before August 23, 2023 (recording date of mortgage), none of which are foreclosed by the Judgment of Foreclosure. 4. The sale of the Property, together with the appurtenances and improvements thereon and any personal property and fixtures located thereon, shall be sold under the direction of the Court by the County Clerk or its designee, including the County Sheriff, and that all proceeds from the sale will be applied, after payment of the expenses of sale and the cost of this suit, for payment of the amount due and owing to Simplify and that if any surplus exists over an above the amount bid by Simplify (assuming the amount bid by Simplify is not greater than the Judgment amount, plus allowable costs), that amount shall be paid into the Court for determination of the rights of other parties to this action, as to the surplus, if any. 5. Defendants shall be forever barred and foreclosed of and from all equity of redemption, and claim of, in, and to the Mortgaged Property, if not redeemed within six (6) months from the date of the sale. 6. That the sale shall become final, subject to the redemption period, upon an entry of an Order Confirming Sale by the Court. 7. That upon becoming final, the right, title, and interest in the Property shall vest in the grantee named in the Deed, as those rights, titles and interest that existed in Defendants. Cass County Clerk Dated: July 28, 2025 Gary D. Popovits, Esq. Pezzetti, Vermetten, Popovits & Umulis, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff 600 E. Front Street, Suite 102 Traverse City, MI 49686 (231) 929-3450 W:Real Estate, LLCGroup - Judicial Foreclosure (2nd Mtg)Foreclosureof Foreclosure Sale - Judicial 07.26.25.wpd Ad #258013

Dowagiac Daily News: Aug. 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 6 and 13, 2025
258013

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE OF HERBICIDE APPLICATION

The Daltons Inc., its main office at 8857 N. Syracuse-Webster Rd., Syracuse, IN 46567, has been contracted by Cass Co Road Commission to perform custom chemical vegetation control maintenance services at designated **roadside** locations throughout the county.
In doing so, they will be broadcast applying the following EPA-registered materials:
Alligare Triclopyr 3SL (Triclopyr) or Corteva Garlon 3A or Corteva Element 3A and Envu/Bayer Escort XP or Alligare MSM 60(Metsulfuron Methyl).
Do not enter or allow entry into treated areas until sprays have dried.
This application will be completed by certified applicators employed by The Daltons Inc., during the months of September and/or October. Additional information may be requested by contacting David Mohler or Brad Bolinger at 574-267-7511.

Dowagiac Daily News:
Aug. 9, 2025
HERBICIDE APPLICATION

Looking for a home?

Look in our classifieds section and learn of great deals for you and your family.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS HEARING WAYNE TOWNSHIP CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE RESIDENTS OF AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WAYNE, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Wayne Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on August 21, 2025 at 6:30 P.M. in the Wayne Township Hall located at 53950 Glenwood Road, to consider the appeal of Michael P. and Christi S. Rider, parcel #14-150-006-019-50, located at 27608 Corwin St., Dowagiac, MI 49047. A variance to build an additional pole barn 30' x 56', 1680' sq.ft.. 13' side walls are requested. Current Zoning allows 1200 sq.ft., & 10' side walls.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that written comments concerning the above matters may be mailed to the Wayne Township Clerk, Attention Zoning Board of Appeals, 53950 Glenwood Rd., Dowagiac, MI 49047, at any time prior to this public hearing and may further be submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals at said public hearing.
All interested persons are invited to be present at the previously mentioned time and place to be heard with respect to this matter.
This notice is served and posted in compliance with Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended; the Open Meetings Act; MCLA 41.72a (2)(3); Americans with Disabilities Act and The Wayne Township Zoning Ordinance.
Wayne Township will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the meeting/hearing to individuals with disabilities, upon reasonable notice to the Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services should contact the Township in writing at: Kurt Reich, Wayne Township Clerk, 53950 Glenwood Rd., Dowagiac, MI 49047, by phone at: 1-269-782-7017 or by email: waynetownshipclerk@gmail.com
Published: August 4, 2025
Kurt E. Reich, Clerk
Wayne Township

Dowagiac Daily News:
Aug. 9, 2025
HEARING 8.21.25

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in CASS County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on August 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Kathy A. Phillips, a single woman, whose address is 61115 Barron Lake Road, Niles, Michigan 49120, as original Mortgagors, to Greenpoint Credit Corp., being a mortgage dated June 10, 1999, and recorded on June 18, 1999 in Liber 00704 Page 0178, Cass County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned through mesne assignments to Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation as Trustee for Freddie Mac Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2021-1, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated October 19, 2024 and recorded on October 21, 2024 in Liber 1252 Page 389, Cass County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of TWENTY-FOUR THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-SEVEN AND 27/100 DOLLARS ($24,497.27). Said premises are situated in the Township of Pokagon, County of Cass, State of Michigan, and are described as: COMMENCING AT THE CENTER OF THE HIGHWAY 30 RODS SOUTH OF THE HALF MILE STAKE, ON NORTH SIDE OF SECTION 33 IN SAID TOWNSHIP, THENCE EAST 10 RODS, THENCE SOUTH 8 RODS, THENCE WEST 10 RODS, THENCE NORTH ALONG THE HIGHWAY 8 RODS TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING ONE-HALF ACRE OF LAND, ALL IN SECTION 33, TOWN 6 SOUTH, RANGE 16 WEST. Street Address: 61115 Barron Lake Road, Niles, Michigan 49120 The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: July 19, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 25 6565
(07-19)(08-09)

Dowagiac Daily News:
July 19, 26, Aug. 2 and 9, 2025
1566499 PHILLIPS

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CASS COUNTY

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on August 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Ross P. Ashley and Angelina L. Ashley, Husband and Wife Original Mortgagee: JMS Manufactured Housing, Inc. Date of mortgage: September 27, 1995 Recorded on September 27, 1995, Liber 596, on Page 1299, and re-recorded via Re-Recorded Mortgage on February 22, 1996, Liber 604, on Page 1145, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): US Bank National Association as trustee on behalf of Manufactured Housing Contract Senior/Subordinate Pass-Through Certificate Trust 1995-9 Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Seven and 53/100 Dollars ($9,987.53) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: Lot 79 in Andrew Lester`s addition to the city of Dowagiac according to the recorded plat thereof. Commonly known as 211 Bradly St, Dowagiac, MI 49047 The redemption period will be 12 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. US Bank National Association as trustee on behalf of Manufactured Housing Contract Senior/Subordinate Pass-Through Certificate Trust 1995-9 Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1566934
(07-19)(08-09)

Dowagiac Daily News: July 19, 26. Aug. 2 and 9, 2025
1566934 ASHLEY

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF CASS FILE NO. 2025-090 - DE CREDITORS NOTICE

ESTATE OF ESTATE OF THOMAS RAY WILLIAMS a/k/a THOMAS WILLIAMS a/k/a TOM R. WILLIAMS Date of Birth: September 03, 1944
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including creditors and heirs of the deceased whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The Decedent, THOMAS RAY WILLIAMS a/k/a THOMAS WILLIAMS a/k/a TOM R. WILLIAMS, who lived at 24087 South Shore Drive, Edwardsburg, Michigan, died December 11, 2024.
Creditors of the Decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to RHONDA RENEE PAULEY, named personal representative, or to the probate court at 60296 M62, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031 and the named personal representative within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

August 2, 2205

Robert L. Landgraf, Jr.
(P 23000), Post Office Box 1310, Niles, Michigan 49120 - 1310. (269) 683 - 8300.

Rhonda Renee Pauley
23549 US Highway 12
Edwardsburg, Michigan 49112

Dowagiac Daily News:
Aug. 9, 2025
EST/WILLIAMS, T.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in BERRIEN County, starting promptly at 11:00 AM, on August 15, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Patricia Ann LaBelle a/k/a Patricia A. LaBelle, unmarried Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: March 29, 2013 Recorded on April 15, 2013, Liber 1058, on Page 1395, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): The Huntington National Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Seventy-Three Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Five and 63/100 Dollars ($73,345.63) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: Beginning on the West section line of Section Seven (7), Town Five (5) South, Range Fifteen (15) West, at a point West of an iron pipe located on the East side of Highway M-40 (now Highway M-51) a distance of 695 feet, more or less, North of the Southwest corner of said Section 7; thence East through said iron pipe a distance of 410 feet; thence North parallel to said section line a distance of 425 feet; thence West to said section line, a distance of 410 feet; thence South along said section line, 425 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as 51831 M 51 Hwy, Dowagiac, MI 49047 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale will be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1566939
(07-19)(08-09)

Dowagiac Daily News:
July 19, 26. Aug. 2 and 9, 2025
1566939 LABELLE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on 9/3/2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Names of Mortgagor(s): Steven William Schutkoske and Lori Sue Schutkoske. Original mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Cardinal Financial Company, Limited Partnership. Date of mortgage: 9/7/2022. Mortgage recorded on 9/8/2022 as Document No. 196611, in Liber 1222, Page 2440. Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Cardinal Financial Company, Limited Partnership. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: $242,221.13 Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF ONTWA, CASS COUNTY, STATE OF MICHIGAN: LOT 61 IN LAKELAND PLACE, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF IN LIBER 1 OF PLATS, PAGE 179, CASS COUNTY RECORDS Commonly known as 68863 6th Street, Edwardsburg, MI 49112. The redemption period will be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days after the statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241, the redemption period will be 1 month from the date of such sale. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes pursuant to MCL 600.3240(16), the redemption period is 1 year from the date of such sale. The redemption period may be extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Date of Notice: 08/02/2025. Codilis & Moody, P.C. 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100 Burr Ridge, IL 60527 (313) 536-2500. This law firm is a debt collector. C&M File 23-25-00060
(08-02)(08-23)

Dowagiac Daily News:
Aug. 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2025
1568212 SCHUTKOSKE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on September 10, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Todd F. Bowie and Carol A. Bowie, husband and wife
Original Mortgagee: Wells Fargo Financial America, Inc.
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None
Date of Mortgage: October 6, 2006
Date of Mortgage Recording: October 16, 2006
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $56,508.09
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Howard, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: A parcel of land being part of the North one half of the Southeast one quarter of Section 21, Town 7 South, Range 16 West, commencing 234.9 feet West and North 16 degrees 32 minutes East 206 feet from the Southwest corner of the Northwest one quarter of the Southeast one quarter of Section 21; thence North 16 degrees 32 minutes East 143.5 feet; thence East 825.00 feet; thence South 137.6 feet; thence West 854.3 feet to the point of beginning.
Common street address (if any): 1251 Barron Lake Rd, Niles, MI 49120-9523
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: August 9, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1568393
(08-09)(08-30)

Dowagiac Daily News:
Aug. 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2025
1568393 BOWIE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on September 10, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Michael R. Maddox, a single person
Original Mortgagee: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Newrez LLC dba Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing (fka Specialized Loan Servicing LLC)
Date of Mortgage: April 10, 2015

Legal Notices

Date of Mortgage Recording: April 16, 2015
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $83,020.85
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Howard, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 14, Fairview Park, according to the recorded plat thereof, of record in Liber 1H of Plats, Page 354, Cass County records.
Common street address (if any): 827 E Park Dr, Niles, MI 49120-5031
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: August 9, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1568440
(08-09)(08-30)

Dowagiac Daily News:
Aug. 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2025
1568440 MADDOX

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CASS COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on September 10, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Daniel W. Tackett and Amanda E. Tackett, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: July 24, 2020 Recorded on August 19, 2020, Liber 1178, on Page 866, and re-recorded via Affidavit of Correction on April 2, 2025, Liber 1258, on Page 1161, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Seventy-Nine Thousand Twenty-Six and 26/100 Dollars ($179,026.26) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: Beginning at the North Quarter corner of Section 31, Township 7 South, Range 16 West thence South along the North and South Quarter line of said Section 31, 186.0 feet; thence North 89 degrees 33 minutes West, parallel with the North line of said Section 31, 109.0 feet; thence North 186.0 feet; thence South 89 degrees 33 minutes East, 109.0 feet to the point of beginning. Commonly known as 2298 Yankee St, Niles, MI 49120 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1568824
(08-09)(08-30)

Dowagiac Daily News:
Aug. 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2025
1568824 TACKETT

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
SS:
IN THE ST. JOSEPH PROBATE COURT
CAUSE NUMBER: 71J01-2501-JT-96
IN RE THE TERMINATION OF THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP OF:
Baby Boy Betts,
(a Safe Haven Infant),
AND
UNNAMED PARENT 1
UNNAMED PARENT 2
SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION & NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS HEARING
NOTICE TO UNNAMED PARENT

To: The unnamed putative parent(s) of a Baby Boy Betts, a male infant that was voluntarily surrendered on July 10, 2025, in St. Joseph County, Indiana and born on approximately July 10, 2025, or the person who claims to be a parent of the infant,
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a petition to terminate the parent-child relationship was filed in the office of the clerk of the St. Joseph County Probate Court, 1000 S. Michigan St., South Bend, IN 46601.
YOU MUST RESPOND If the unnamed putative parent seeks to contest the petition to terminate the parent-child relationship of the infant, the unnamed putative parent must file a motion to contest the petition in accordance with IC 31-35-1.5-8 in the above-named court within twenty-eight (28) days after the date of service of this notice.
This notice may be served by publication.
You are further notified that if the unnamed putative parent does not file a motion to contest the petition within thirty (30) days after service of this notice, the above-named court shall hear and determine the petition to terminate the parent-child relationship.
You are further notified that if the unnamed putative parent does not file a motion to contest the petition within thirty (30) days after service of this notice, the unnamed putative parent's consent is irrevocably implied and the unnamed putative parent loses the right to contest the petition to terminate the parent-child relationship or the validity of the unnamed putative parent's implied consent to the termination of the parent-child relationship. The unnamed putative parent loses the right to establish a biological relationship with the child in Indiana or any other jurisdiction. Nothing anyone else says to the unnamed putative parent of the infant relieves the unnamed putative parent of his or her obligations under this notice.
Under Indiana law, a putative parent is a person who claims that he or she may be the father or mother of an infant who has been voluntarily surrendered but who has not yet been legally proven to be the child's father or mother.
This notice complies with IC 31-35-1.5-5 but does not exhaustively set forth the unnamed putative parent's legal obligations under the Indiana adoption statutes. A person being served with this notice should consult the Indiana adoption statutes.
Amy Rolfes, Clerk of St. Joseph County

Dowagiac Daily News:
July 26, Aug. 2 and 9, 2025
71J01-2507-JT-96

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE SALE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN THE ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.
ATTENTION PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.
Default having been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made the 26th day of February, 2021 made by Corrina J. Smith of 71034 Kessington Road, Union, MI 49031 as mortgagor, to Leslie R. Begley and Kendra L. Begley, husband and wife of 1503 W. Bristol Street, Elkhart, IN 46514 as mortgagee, and recorded March 3, 2021 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Cass, and State of Michigan, in Liber 1190 of records, page 2584 and the Mortgagee having elected under the terms of said Mortgage to declare the entire principal and accrued interest thereon due, which election it does hereby exercise, pursuant to which mortgagee claims due and unpaid at the date of this notice $760,535.28, principal and interest to date.
NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on August 27, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon, at the Courthouse, 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, Michigan, (that being the place for holding the Circuit Court for the County of Cass), there will be offered for sale to the highest bidder at Public Auction for the purpose of satisfying the amount due and unpaid on said mortgage with interest thereon of 7.9% per cent per annum, and all legal costs, charges and expenses, including attorney fees as allowed by law and also any sums paid by the undersigned to protect its interest prior to said sale, which said premises are situated in the Township of Mason, County of Cass, described as:
Parcel 1: From the Northeast corner of Fractional Section 23, Town 8 South, Range 14 West, measure South 00°36'15" West, along the East line of said Section, 176.00 feet to the point of beginning of the land herein described: thence continue South 00°36'15" West, along said Section line, 22.00 feet; thence North 88°33'26" West, parallel with the North Section line, 657.64 feet; thence South 00°37'45" West, 1654.30 feet; thence North 89°21'04" West, 1974.85 feet to the North-South quarter line of said Section; thence North 00°42'09" East, along said quarter line, 1879.62 feet to the North quarter corner of said Section; thence South 88°33'26" East, along the North Section line, 1147.60 feet; thence South 00°37'45" West, 566.56 feet; thence South 88°33'26" East, parallel with the North Section line, 805.00 feet; thence North 00°37'45" East, 390.56 feet; thence South 88°33'26" East, 677.63 feet to the point of beginning. SUBJECT TO that portion along the East side thereof as being used for roadway purposes. SUBJECT TO AND TOGETHER WITH A 66' WIDE EASEMENT FOR INGRESS/EGRESS AND UTILITY PLACEMENT. Tax ID No. 14-060-023-366-01 66 FOOT INGRESS/EGRESS/ UTILITY PLACEMENT EASEMENT: From the Northeast corner of Fractional Section 23, Town 8 South, Range 14 West; measure South 00°36'15" West, along the East line of said Section, 132.00 feet to the point of beginning of the land herein described; thence continue South 00°36'15" West, along the East Section line, 66.00 feet; thence North 88°33'26" West, parallel with the North Section line, 657.64 feet; thence South 00°37'45" West, 368.56 feet; thence North 88°33'26" West, 825.00 feet; thence North 00°37'45" East, 66.01 feet; thence South 88°33'26" East, parallel with the North Section line, 759.00 feet; thence North 00°37'45" East, 368.55 feet; thence South 88°33'26" East, parallel with the North Section line, 723.61 feet to the point of beginning. SUBJECT TO that portion along the East side thereof as being used for roadway purposes.
Parcel 2: Commencing South 00°36'15" West 154 feet from the Northeast corner of Section 23, Town 8 South, Range 14 West, thence South 00°36'15" West 22 feet; thence North 88°33'26" West 677.63 feet; thence South 00°37'45" West 390.56 feet; thence North 88°33'26" West 805 feet; thence North 00°37'45" East 566.56 feet; thence South 88°33'26" East 455 feet; thence South 00°37'45" West 525.55 feet; thence South 88°33'26" East 330 feet; thence North 00°37'45" East 371.56 feet; thence South 88°33'26" East 697.62 feet to the point of beginning. SUBJECT TO EASEMENT. Tax ID No. 14-060-023-366-31
The length of the period of redemption from such sale will be one year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241(a) in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
Dated: July 21, 2025
Prepared by:
Garrett T. McNally
JONES LAW OFFICE
Counsel for Mortgagee
120 West Main Street
Marcellus, Michigan 49067
Phone: 269/646-5511

Dowagiac Daily News:
July 26, Aug. 2, 9 and 16, 2025
FC/SMITH

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LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR CASS COUNTY
JEFFREY C. WHITE,
PLAINTIFF,
VS.
DONALD G. WHITE,
DECEASED
AND HIS HEIRS
OR ASSIGNS,
DEFENDANTS.

JEFFREY R. HOLMSTROM (29405) Holmstrom Law Office, PLC Attorney for Plaintiff 830 Pleasant Street, Suite 100 St. Joseph, Michigan 49085 (269) 983-0755 jeff@holmstromlawoffice.com

Case No.: 25-000399 -CZ
ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION AND NOTICE OF ACTION
At a session of Court held in the Courthouse in the Village of Cassopolis, County of Cass and State of Michigan on the 4th day of August, 2025.
Plaintiff filed a verified ex parte motion for service of process by publication. After reading the verified motion, the Complaint and the accompanying exhibits, the Court finds that Plaintiff has shown that service of process cannot reasonably be made on Defendant Donald G. White, Deceased, by the methods provided in MCR 2.105A since Donald G. White has deceased and a decedent's estate was not administered. The Court further finds, pursuant to MCR 2.105 (J), that service of process by publication and posting is the best available method of service of process reasonably calculated to give Defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.
IT IS ORDERED that:
1. PUBLICATION. Plaintiff may serve process on Defendant by publishing the following notice once each week for a period of three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper, as defined in MCR 2.106(F), that is published in the County of Cass, State of Michigan, where the real property is situated:
"An action seeking to quiet title to real property described as Real Estate located in the Township of Silver Creek, County of Cass, State of Michigan, and described as:
Commencing at a point on the South line of Section 1, Town 5 South, Range 16 West, which is 400 feet Westerly from the intersection of said South line and the survey centerline of Michigan State Trunkline Highway M-51 (previously known as State Highway M-40); thence North 0°24'30"t West, parallel with said survey centerline, 300 feet; thence West parallel to the South line of said Section, 200 feet; thence North 0°24'30" West, 175 feet; thence West 147 feet; thence North 40°16' East, 30 feet; Thence East 40 feet; Thence North 40°16' East, 20 feet; thence West 40 feet; thence North 40°16' East, 225 feet; thence North 5°15' East, 320 feet; thence South 87°07' West, 766 feet, more or less, to the West line of the Southeast quarter of the Southeast quarter of said Section 1; thence Northerly along said West line to a point which is 2 rods South of the North line of the Southeast quarter of the Southeast quarter of said Section; thence Easterly following a line 2 rods South of the said North line to the Westerly line of Highway M-51; thence Southerly along said Westerly line of M-51, 627 feet, more or less, to a jog; thence Westerly along said jog, 10 feet; thence continuing Southerly along said Westerly line of M-51, to the South line of said Section 1; thence Westerly along the said South line to the place of beginning,
EXCEPTING THEREFROM, that part thereof now being used for highway purposes.
EXCEPTING THEREFROM: That part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast quarter of Section 1, Town 5 South, Range 16 West, which is described as: Beginning at the Southeast corner of said Section; and running thence West along the South line of said Section, 399.95 feet; thence North 0° 24' 10" West, 300.00 feet; thence East 400.07 feet to the East line of said Section; thence South 0° 23' 10" East, along the East line of said Section, 300.00 feet to the point of beginning.
Subject to the rights of Highway M-152 over the Southerly 33 feet thereof and of the rights of Highway M-51 along the Easterly edge thereof.
and Defendant must answer or take other action permitted by law within 28 days after the last date of publication. If Defendant does not answer or take other action within the time allowed, judgment may be entered against its for the relief demanded in the Complaint."
2. POSTING: Plaintiff must post a copy of this Order in the Courthouse and two (2) other public places for three (3) continuous weeks.
Date of Entry: 4th August 2025
HON. CAROL M. BEALOR
Circuit Court Judge

Dowagiac Daily News:
Aug. 9, 16 and 23, 2025
WHITE

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New approved residential customers only (equipment lease req'd). Credit card req'd (except MA & PA). Price incl. TV Pkg & equip. fees for first TV. Charges may apply for each add'l connected TV. *Add'l Terms for Satellite customers: $19.95 activation. Early agmt termination fee applies ($20/mo.) & add'l fee applies if not returned. Restr's apply.
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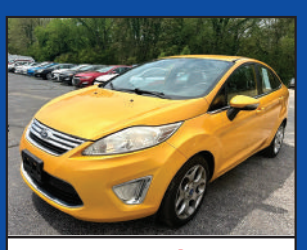

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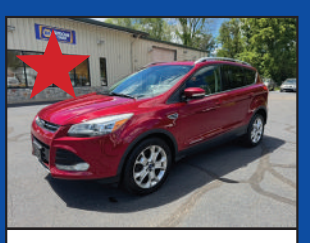

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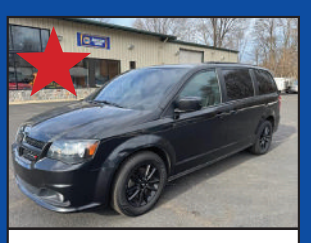

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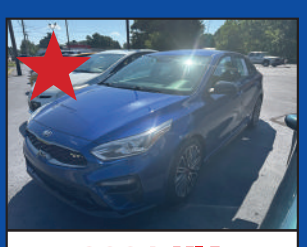
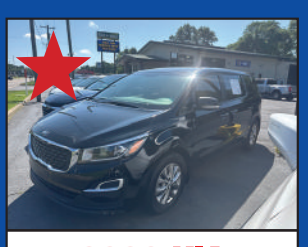


2021 KIA FORTE GT
Loaded with leather and moonroof
Only $17,777

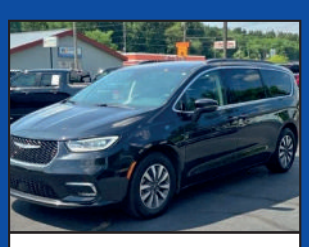
TOYOTA FJ CRUISER
Like finding a needle in a haystack
Only $17,777



2020 KIA SEDONA LX
Mini vans for the mini mum
Only $19,900

2019 INFINITI QX50 AWD
Just in!!
Only $21,900

2018 CHEVY EQUINOX PREMIER AWD
Diesel. 45 miles per gallon
Only $21,900

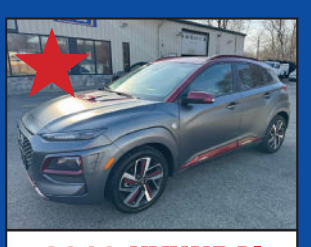


2021 CHRYSLER PACIFICA
Just In!!
Low miles
Only $23,900

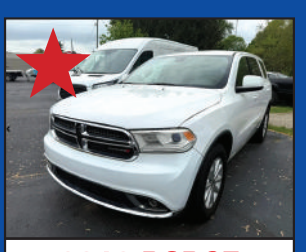
2020 CHEVY COLORADO EX CAB 4 X 4
Showroom new, low miles
Only $23,900

2019 FORD TRANSIT HIGHROOF
Like new with low miles
Only $24,900

2023 HYUNDAI SONATA SEL
Like new with only 4,000 miles!
Only $24,900



2019 HYUNDAI KONA IRONMAN
Extremely rare. Only 1 of 500. Will be a collector's item
Only $24,900



2019 DODGE DURANGO SXT 4 X 4
Only 31,000 miles and like new
Only $24,900

2018 RAM 5500 CHASSIS CREW 4 X 4
Diesel, full power, fully serviced
Only $27,900

2003 CHEVY SSR
SUPER RARE
Only 43,000 miles
Only $29,900

2020 NISSAN ARMADA 4 X 4
Big ol rig!!
Only $29,900

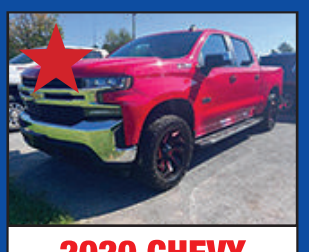
2020 BUICK ENCLAVE AVENIR AWD
Every option, over $60k new. Half price!!
Only $29,900

2016 FORD F-250 XLT 4 X 4
Crew cab, long box
Diesel, Low miles
Only $29,900

2023 HONDA RIDGELINE RTL 4 X 4
Just in!! Every option. Save thousands!
Only $31,900

2024 CHEVY EQUINOX RS AWD
Just in!!
8,000 miles
with every option!!
Only $33,900

2024 FORD EXPLORER LIMITED AWD
Just in!! Loaded
Only $39,900



2020 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW Z-71
Oh So Purdy!
Only $39,900

2022 TOYOTA TACOMA BEAST
OFF LEASE,
one owner with EVERY option
Only 13,000 miles
Only $43,900

2022 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW LTZ
Just in!! Off lease, one owner
19,000 miles.
Over $75k new
Only $49,900

2024 FORD F-350 CREW XLT 4 X 4
Duallie,
Diesel, Mint!!
Only $59,900

SEE A STAR IT'S A 1 OWNER CAR

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